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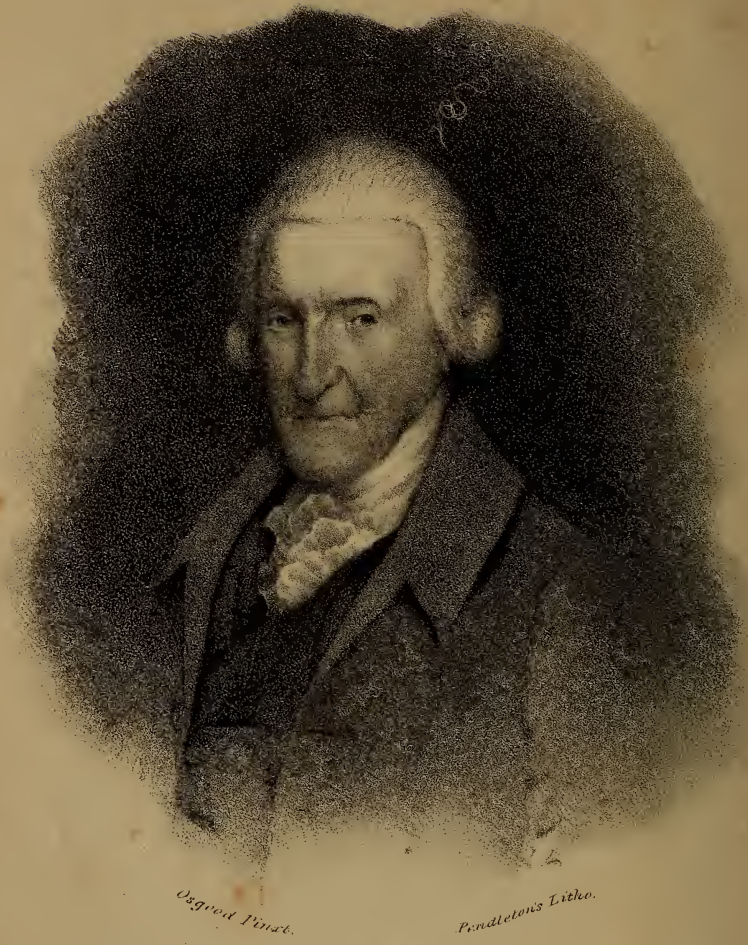

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E. A. HOLYOKE, M.D. L.L.D.

AGED 100 YEARS.

# MEMOIR

OF

# EDWARD A. HOLYOKE, M. D. LL. D.

PREPARED IN COMPLIANCE WITH A VOTE

OF THE

ESSEX SOUTH DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY,

AND

PUBLISHED AT THEIR REQUEST.

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DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS.....TO WIT.

*District Clerk's Office.*

BE it remembered, that on the sixteenth day of July, A. D. 1829, in the fifty fourth Year of the Independence of the United States of America, PERKINS & MARVIN, of the said District, have deposited in this Office the Title of a Book, the right whereof they claim as Proprietors, in the Words following, *to wit :*

Memoir of Edward A. Holyoke, M. D. LL. D., prepared in compliance with a vote of the Essex South District Medical Society, and published at their request.

In conformity to the act of the Congress of the United States, entitled "An Act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned :" and also to an Act entitled "An Act supplementary to an Act, entitled, An Act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts and books to the authors and proprietors of such copies during the times therein mentioned ; and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving and etching historical and other prints."

JNO. W. DAVIS, { *Clerk of the District of Massachusetts.*

TO

THE FAMILY OF THE LATE

**DR. HOLYOKE,**

AS A SLIGHT TESTIMONY OF THE VENERATION

IN WHICH

**THE MEMORY OF THEIR PARENT**

IS HELD

BY HIS MEDICAL BRETHREN,

THE FOLLOWING MEMOIR IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

**BY THE COMMITTEE**

OF THE

ESSEX SOUTH DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY.

*Salem, June* 1, 1829.

E. A. HOLYOKE,

AGED 45.

# MEMOIR

OF

# DR. HOLYOKE.

To preserve and transmit the memory of the good, is to promote the cause of virtue, and the practice of good deeds. Impressed with this consideration, the District Medical Society, of which the subject of this Memoir was their first President, have deemed it a pious duty, to collect the scattered memorials of a member of the profession, lately deceased, whose least distinction it was that his life was protracted far beyond the limits, ordinarily assigned to human existence.

In preparing the following memoir, the committee, to whom the duty has been assigned, have had in view other objects than the gratification of curiosity, and mere entertainment. Of the latter, an account of the daily duties of an unostentatious practitioner of medicine, affords but a scanty supply; and as the subject of the memoir had, of all

men, the least pretensions to eccentricities and singularity, there is little of varied interest in the events of his life. But it would be no small matter, if the contemplation of Dr. Holyoke's life, should convince an aspirant for medical renown, that to be eminent it is only necessary to become useful; and that a life faithfully devoted to the interests of philanthropy, and the study of philosophy and medicine, inevitably conducts to high honor and distinction, and obtains for its possessor a remembrance in the affections of mankind, and in the annals of the good, which will be durable and fresh when the reputation of misdirected talents shall have faded away.

The literature of our profession is deficient in the annals of those who have most contributed to raise its dignity and importance, and it is hoped that the following imperfect sketch, will be acceptable, at least to those who have been accustomed to feel an interest in the life and character of the Nestor of our profession.

Edward Augustus Holyoke was the second of eight children of Edward and Margaret Holyoke of Marblehead, County of Essex, Mass. His father was born in Boston, educated at Harvard College, where he was afterwards tutor, settled as pastor of the second congregational society in Marblehead, April 25, 1716, installed President of Harvard College 1737, and died June 1769, aged 80. His paternal ancestor came from Tamworth, on the borders of Warwickshire, England, and was among the

original grantees of the town of Lynn, where he settled at Sagamore Hill, in 1638.* President Holyoke was three times married; the first time to Elizabeth Brown of Marblehead, the second to Margaret Appleton, daughter of Col. John Appleton of Ipswich, and the third time to the widow of Major Epes of Ipswich Hamlet. The subject of this memoir was the offspring of the second marriage, and was born August 1, 1728, old style. In 1742 he entered the freshman class at Harvard University. He has preserved an account of his examination, and the sentence which was given him as a

* Dr. Holyoke had at one time in his possession the genealogical records of his family; but just before the revolutionary war, he lent them to Gov. Hutchinson, and they shared the fate of those papers which were destroyed in the mobbing of Mr. Hutchinson's house in 1765.

The following memoranda, furnished by a highly intelligent antiquarian friend, to whose researches we are indebted for other favors, are taken from the ancient records of this and the neighboring town of Lynn. It is to be observed the prefix *Mr.* was only used for the names of persons of some distinction. In 1638, the town of Lynn granted to "Mr. Edward Holliocke upland and medowe 500 acres." The name of "Mr. Edward Holiock" is found among the list of freemen of Massachusetts colony, May 14, 1638. (Savage's Winthrop, vol. ii.)

Thomas Putnam was married to "Ann Holyocke, 17th 8th mo. 1643, who was daughter to Mr. Edward Holyock and Prudence his wife, formerly of Tanworth in Warwicke sheere, England." (Record of births, deaths, and marriages, Salem.)

Among the depositions taken in the suit of Dexter to recover Nahant from the town of Lynn is the following:—"The testimony of Edward Holyoke, 27th 4th mo. 1657. About the year 1642, or 1643, Mr. Humphrey and Mr. Thomas Dexter the elder, did instigate me earnestly to joyne sute with them about Nahant, because Mr. Dexter said I had a proprietie in Nahant as well as them; myselfe purchasing what right Captaine Turner had in Saugus alias Lyn: but I durst not embrace that offer, because divers of the inhabitants gave forth that Nahant belonged as common to the plantation of Lyn, for that the contending for Nahant would have been as for Naboth's Vineyard." Taken before me, June 27, 1657. Samuel Denison. (County Court records.)

theme upon that occasion, seems to have been the motto of his future life. "Labor improbus omnia vincit." From this period to the end of his life, he was characterized by constant diligence, and assiduous attention to his duties. In 1746 he was graduated, and in the following year he spent six months at Roxbury in teaching a school.* In July 1747, he commenced the study of medicine under the care of Col. Berry, of Ipswich.† This gentleman was the most distinguished practitioner of his neighborhood, although his being universally known by his military title, does not speak highly for the estimation in which medical honors were then held. He finished his studies in April, 1749, and came to Salem in June of the same year. This place has ever since been the scene of his useful and philanthropic labors. For the remainder of his life he scarcely left the town, unless on business connected with his profession, and during his life he never wandered so far as fifty miles from the spot on which he was born. His longest journey was to Ports-

* For which he received eighty four pounds old tenor—$38,50: out of which he paid his board at sixty seven cents per week.

† "Thomas Berry, Esq. was born at Boston, the latter end of the 17th century, and was graduated at Harvard College, 1712. He received his medical education under Doct. Thomas Greaves, of Charlestown. He settled at Ipswich, Essex County, where he had a remarkable run of practice in his profession, and was considered the most eminent physician in that vicinity. But in the latter period of his life he was more attentive to politicks than physick. He represented the town in the legislature, and afterwards was of the council several years, was judge of probate for the county of Essex, and justice of the court of Common Pleas, and colonel of the regiment. He died August 10th, 1756, aged 72." (From a memorandum of Dr. Holyoke's.)

mouth, in 1749, at which time he was absent five days. In 1755 he was married to Judith Pickman, daughter of Col. B. Pickman of Salem. This lady died in her nineteenth year, in 1756, soon after the birth of a daughter, which did not long survive her. In 1759 he was again married to Mary Viall, daughter of Nathaniel Viall, merchant of Boston. Upon this latter occasion, he was absent from Salem a week, which is believed to have been the longest visit he ever made from home, except in 1764, when he went to Boston to be inoculated for the small pox. The length of this visit was occasioned by a custom which then prevailed, for newly married persons to devote a week to receiving the visits and congratulations of their friends, or as the phrase was, "sitting up for company;" a ceremony which Dr. Holyoke declared to one of the Committee was "very tedious and irksome." By his second wife he had twelve children, most of whom died in infancy. Two daughters only survive; the widow of the late Mr. William Turner, of Boston, and the wife of Joshua Ward, Esq. of this town. Dr. Holyoke perhaps was led to select this town as his place of residence, in consequence of the death of Dr. Cabot, which occurred just at the time of his finishing his studies; but so little were his expectations of employment realized, that after two years' trial, he appears to have had serious intentions of abandoning the place, in despair of success, and to have remained here only through fear of distressing his father if he returned home.

No man probably ever entered upon the business of his profession with more settled resolution and perseverance than Dr. Holyoke. He had youth and health, a constitution of mind and body eminently calculated for endurance of labor and fatigue, was reputed a good scholar for his time; he read the Latin language with great fluency, and he subsequently attained a familiar acquaintance with the French; he had as many opportunities of learning his profession as were common at that time, and was respectably connected, and advantageously known. But notwithstanding these advantages, the medical profession abounded in discouragements which, to say the least, are greatly lessened in our day. The standard of medical education was totally unsettled. Every one who chose to prescribe for the sick, was admitted to the rank of physician; the higher points of medical character, and the value of medical studies, were totally unappreciated by the bulk of the people; and the compensation for medical services was exceedingly small.* The periodical press did not then, as now, issue its regular current of observations and intelligence, and it was not till Dr. Holyoke reached the declining period of life, that this species of medical literature had given that impulse to the profession, which is so sensibly felt at the present day. It was rare, in the period of his meridian life, for any man to devote himself to

* His first visits were charged at 5*s*. old tenor, equal to 8 pence, or about 11 cents each. This was at a time when provisions bore nearly half of their present prices, and other necessaries of living were in proportion.

medicine as a science, and pursue the profession without reference to other advantages than those which appertain to medical and scientific character. During almost the whole period of Dr. Holyoke's life, the spirit of commercial adventure was the characteristic trait of almost all around him. There were many ways of rapidly attaining to wealth and distinction, which looked more inviting than the one he had chosen; and it shows his steadiness of purpose, and his characteristic contempt for mere money, that during his whole life he never appears to have been enticed to engage in any of the enterprises, which were undertaken by others in pursuit of wealth, or for a single day to have laid aside his character of a practitioner of the healing art. The following sketch is from the pen of his intimate friend and one of his eldest pupils now living.

"He possessed much vivacity of disposition, accompanied with great agility of body, and when at college was remarkable for his feats of activity. He was reputed to have been a very good scholar.

"The peculiar constitution of his mind led him to cultivate and to be much attached to experimental inquiry. He thought with Bacon, that it was the only road to discovery. He often expressed great aversion to hypotheses, whether applied to medicine or natural philosophy.

"He made some original experiments, more than half a century ago, with ether and the thermometer,

by which he discovered the power of evaporation to produce cold. And this was done before the discovery had been announced in America.*

"He was very attentive to his professional duties, visiting with equal promptness the poor and the rich. Few physicians in the United States have done so much for the poor. When in the sick chamber his manners were remarkably affable and kind, but preserving a proper dignity of deportment. Such was the success attending his practice, and his great reputation, that it produced to him such a pressure of business, as sometimes scarcely permitted him to take the necessary meals for supporting life.†

"In medical consultations he expressed himself with diffidence and caution, and with junior members of the profession, was free from hauteur, and was communicative, and at the same time candid, and disposed rather to conceal than to expose their errors.

"His practice has been thought, in the use of mercury and opium, to have resembled that of the celebrated Dr. Darwin. For although he very often prescribed those active agents, yet it was, perhaps, in more cautious doses than they are generally ad-

* See Appendix A.

† The following calculation conveys some idea of the extent of his business. He had filled 120 day-books of 90 pages each, containing charges for 30 visits on each page—giving an average of over 11 visits a day for 75 years. And upon one occasion, when the measles were epidemic in 1787, he made over 100 professional visits in a day, for several days. And there was a period of his practice when he could say there was not a house in Salem in which he had not visited professionally.

ministered in the present day. In pneumonic inflammation, however, and in cases of cynanche trachealis, the mercury was very liberally prescribed. In the latter disease he depended principally on the turpeth mineral.

"He was not averse as he advanced in life to the trial of new remedies, but might rather be said to be fond of such trial; but it was always done with great caution, to ensure safety to his patients. He early gave the mineral solution, and he was one of the first physicians in America that prescribed the Prussic acid.*

"Cheerfulness has been said to be conducive to longevity, and such an influence it probably had in the subject of this memoir, in whom this quality of the mind abounded, and formed a most conspicuous trait in his character. But although he loved cheerfulness, his conversation did not admit of levity. The subjects which he liked most to dwell upon, in the society of his friends, were such as had a useful bearing on morals, the arts or sciences, for the advancement of the happiness of the great family of mankind. A learned Professor said he

* One of the first cases in which he prescribed this medicine was that of his own daughter when in a hectical state. She was much benefitted by it, and shortly after regained her health. To one other patient affected with incipient Phthisis pulmonalis he prescribed the same remedy, and it was followed by such an alleviation of the symptoms that the patient was prompted to continue it for nine months, when she obtained a cure. So serious in this case was the malady, that Dr. Holyoke had mentioned to a friend that he expected to lose his patient. His trial of the Hydrocyanic acid was not limited to these two patients only, he had frequently prescribed it in other cases.

always learned something new from the Doctor's conversation.

" He was always a strong advocate for the truth of the Christian religion, and of the doctrine of immortality. And he adorned the religion he professed, by his benevolent deeds, and most exemplary life.

" The Doctor often regretted the want of greater advantages in his earlier medical education, and evinced by his diligence in reading the best medical authors, a desire to compensate as far as possible such deficiency. He possessed great industry, for if he returned home but for a few minutes, he would snatch up a book, and resume his studies. He was in the habit of importing, almost every year from England, for some considerable portion of his life, the new medical books of merit. But his reading was not confined to medicine exclusively. He was well versed in Astronomy, and the several branches of Natural Philosophy and Theology, and the Belles Lettres. He was truly a man of science, and the public manifested that they considered him so to be, by his having been appointed the first president of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and once also president of the Academy of Arts and Sciences.

" To his extensive science he united great urbanity of manners. The correctness of his conduct, prudence, and politeness were very remarkable. He was fond of society, which he enlivened by his wit, while he instructed his associates by a communication from the rich stores of his mind. For he

was what Bacon has styled a *full* man; and what was said of Dr. Mead may be applied to him. 'Whose abilities and eminence in his profession, united with his learning and fine taste for those arts which embellish human life, long rendered him an ornament, not only to his own profession, but to the nation and age in which he lived.'"

The characteristics of mind most essential to form the practical physician are a talent for observation, a readiness to take cognizance of the phenomena of nature, and curiosity to investigate the causes of these phenomena. These characteristics distinguished Dr. Holyoke from his outset in life.* He had a good memory, and although his incessant calls prevented his devoting much time to writing, he seldom passed a day, for the first sixty years of his practice, without noting down some fact or observation, calculated to augment his professional knowledge. His meteorological observations were recorded daily, almost without an interruption, for eighty years.

The study of the book of nature has been the occupation of the enlightened physician in all ages, and a more complete method of pursuing this study can hardly be imagined than that of Dr. Holyoke. If his attendance upon professional practice had ever allowed him to have fully completed this plan, and prepared the general results of all his observations

* See Appendix B.

for publication, he would have furnished a most valuable treasury of medical knowledge. He kept a memorandum upon his table in which was minuted down the name of every disease the moment he returned from making his call, the more remarkable being the subject of further memoranda, as their interest required, or his leisure allowed. At some stated periods, as at the end of the year, he made out a summary from these daily memoranda, in which he ascertained by computation the number of cases of every disease. He also was diligent in obtaining correct bills of mortality. He was thus enabled to inform himself most completely of the changes which take place in the frequency of occurrence, and the fatality of diseases. These observations, together with those of a meteorological character, formed a complete history of the physical changes which came under his notice. The manuscripts here alluded to, with the exception of those which were sent to the Massachusetts Medical Society, were never intended for public inspection, and are not left in a state to furnish a connected history of the diseases of this vicinity. But such a history might have been compiled from them by the author himself, which would have resembled in character and value the celebrated Commentaries of the venerable Heberden.

Astronomy was the favorite study of scientific men of the last century, and Dr. Holyoke devoted a portion of his time to this study. The appearance of comets, and remarkable displays of the Aurora

Borealis, are noted in his diary with much exactness.* In 1769† he made accurate observations of the transit of Venus over the sun's disk, and in 1782‡ the transit of Mercury over the sun's disk. The observation and recording of the changes of the weather, earthquakes, storms, and other memorabilia, continued to be a favorite pursuit with him as long as he lived. The well remembered September gale of 1815,§ is noticed and recorded by him, with much fidelity and exactness. The epidemics which occurred in his practice were never suffered to pass without at least a cursory record of the principal facts connected with them.

Although for reasons which have been mentioned, he did not often appear before the public as an author, he was not indifferent to the cultivation of medical science among its professors. As soon as the Medical Society of this State was formed,|| he contributed his full share to their published transactions. He wrote the preface to the first volume, and the first paper of that volume is his interesting account of the state of the weather, diseases, operation of remedies, deaths, &c. in Salem, for every

* His letter to Professor Silliman, dated Sept. 19, 1827, in the American Journal of Science, vol. 14th, contains an account of the beautiful appearance of the heavens in the evening of August 28th, 1827, and of some prior exhibitions of the Aurora Borealis which he had witnessed.

† June 3. ‡ November 12. § See Appendix C.

|| Doctor Holyoke was one of the founders of the Society, and was most punctual in his attendance at the stated meetings of the Society at large, as well as those of the District Society in which he was included. To this latter body he was a generous benefactor during his life, and bequeathed to their library some of his most valuable books.

month of the year 1786, and shows that he must have been in habits of close observation, and of noting down the occurrences he met with in practice. Observations of the same kind were communicated for the years 1782, 1783, 1784, 1785, 1787 and 1788. Every physician engaged in full practice, as was Dr. Holyoke at this time, will admit this to have been no small labor.

In the above mentioned paper the following remarks show what were his ideas, upon the duty of a practitioner in recording his experience, and what rich stores of knowledge, might have been furnished, to benefit the profession and mankind, if other distinguished physicians, who were cotemporary with Dr. Holyoke, had pursued the plan recommended and practised by him. "It were much to be wished that practitioners would more generally than they do, commit to paper their thoughts and remarks upon diseases as they arise, and communicate them to the Society; which, though doubtless it would be attended with some labor, yet this labor would be amply rewarded by the benefit which would accrue to themselves, their patients, and the art they profess. The observations of many, made at the same time, and in different parts of the country, and continued for a course of years, must, when collected and compared together, throw a great deal of light upon many points, which are now involved in much obscurity, and would doubtless be the readiest and most effectual method of furnishing materials

for a history of those diseases which are either epidemical or endemical in our country. Indeed the joint efforts of many engaged in the same design, may accomplish, in a few years, what would be impracticable to a few individuals, though employed for ages."

By this method of increasing knowledge, and by more extensive reading than was common at that day, he was, in the early part of his career, in advance of most of his professional cotemporaries. He acquired the authority of a master; and without being the leader of a sect, his opinions were adopted, his prescriptions copied, and his practice imitated. His treatment of dysentery may be taken as a specimen of his early practice;* a practice which he found successful, and which is still held in high repute by many practitioners of this neighborhood.

The terrible epidemic sore throat of 1734–5, which almost totally destroyed the infant population of the north part of Essex County, was keenly remembered for many years afterward, and the attention of physicians was directed to the inflammatory affections of the throat and lungs, and the operation of remedies the most efficacious in these dreaded and dangerous attacks. Hence originated a more complete acquaintance with the mercurial practice, than elsewhere obtained. An interesting letter of Dr. Holyoke's upon this subject was published in the first volume of the New York Medical Reposi-

* See Appendix D.

tory. As this volume of the work is now scarce, we have subjoined the paper in the Appendix.*

Although, as has been observed, Dr. Holyoke was a cautious practitioner, he was not a timid one, and never neglected to make himself acquainted with the reputed powers of new articles, which were from time to time introduced into the materia medica, and with the new modes of practice which were recommended by others. In the use of the Digitalis, of the gum Acaroides, of the muriate of Barytes, and of many medicines of later date, he was one of the earliest and most careful experimenters. His use of acetate of Lead in restraining hemorrhages,† of the oxymuriate of Mercury in the treatment of scrofula, and some forms of cutaneous disease, of small doses of calomel in the ulcuscula oris of children, have led to the establishment of modes of treatment, attended with the highest degree of benefit. There are several medicines which owe their introduction into use entirely to him, and may in fact be said to have originated with him, as he was the first to settle their best mode of preparation and administration. The article so well known in this place by the name of the "white balsam drops" or "fennel balsam," is a strong solution of subcarbonate of potass with the addition of a little of the essential oil of sweet fennel, and is a valuable diaphoretic and carminative, especially to children. This was a favorite medicine during his whole prac-

* See Appendix E. † See Appendix F.

tice. He obtained his first knowledge of it from a Mr. Wigglesworth of Malden.* Of a cheap method of preparing the Sal Æratus or super carbonate of Potass he wrote an account for the Massachusetts Medical Society, which we have reprinted in the Appendix.† This article has in this neighborhood nearly superseded the common Carbonate, both in medicinal and culinary preparations.

Dr. Holyoke's prescriptions were, for the most part, put up under his own inspection, either by himself or his pupils. This practice was nearly universal, even in the large towns, till the commencement of the present century, and if there were obvious disadvantages in the necessity which called for so much of the valuable time of the physician, there were undoubtedly some benefits derived from connecting practical pharmacy with his more dignified duties. The practice still prevails among many of our brethren in New York and farther south, and is warmly advocated by a distinguished individual of their number.‡

Dr. Holyoke was intimately acquainted with the qualities and preparations of all the drugs he was in the habit of using, and was extremely neat and skilful in compounding them. Although, perhaps, he used a greater number of remedial agents than enter into the prescriptions of the present day, he was by no means infected with the polypharmacy which was

* See Appendix G. † See Appendix H.

‡ See Dr. Hossack's introductory lecture, 1825, page 19.

the prevailing fault of the physicians of his time. The following anecdote, related by one of his pupils, exhibits the simplicity of his practice. "When I first went to live with him, in 1797, showing me his shop he said 'there seems to you to be a great variety of medicines here, and that it will take long to get acquainted with them, but most of them are unimportant. There are four which are equal to all the rest, viz. Mercury, Antimony, Bark and Opium; of these there are many preparations, however. Of Antimony I think I have used thirty.' These are his words substantially. He ought to have added Cantharides, but he was thinking of internal remedies." The same person adds, "I can only say of his practice, the longer I have lived, I have thought better and better of it."

In 1777, Dr. Holyoke applied himself to the business of innoculating for Small Pox. He had himself been innoculated in April 1764, by Dr. N. Perkins at Boston, and his careful minutes of this occurrence,* illustrate the customs and practice of that day. In March 1777, he took charge of the hospital, which had been erected a few years before for

* This business was in those days considered a very weighty affair. Dr. Holyoke first wrote to Dr. Perkins at Boston, where in consequence of the Small Pox having been for some time spreading, the selectmen had given leave for a general innoculation, to engage his attendance and receive his directions for the proper preparation of the system. By Dr. Perkins's direction, he took a pill at night of five or six grains of Calomel with Antimony, and lived low. After some days of this process he was reduced sufficiently to receive the disease in the most favorable manner, and accordingly, *having executed his will*, he went to Boston April 6th, and first went abroad after the Small Pox April 23d, having had the disease in the most favorable manner.

Small Pox* innoculation, and conducted through the disease, three classes, amounting in all to about 600, with only two fatal cases occurring. But the loss of these two, less than the average number, one of which occurred in his first class of 200, affected his sensitive mind with so much anguish, as almost to occasion self reproach, and a resolution to abandon the undertaking. During most of the period of his patients remaining in the hospital, he passed his whole time with them, night and day, and many persons in this place, who were at that time under his care for innoculation, testify to his assiduous and skilful attentions.

The Small Pox, that loathsome pestilence, has long since disappeared with us, and the practice of innoculation has been superseded by a still milder preventive, so that we hardly stand in need of the lessons of experience, to teach us how to manage the innoculated Small Pox. But perhaps a more judicious set of rules and prescriptions, can no where be found for this purpose, than those formed and practised upon by Dr. Holyoke, in the Salem hospital. His hospital records contain an account of almost every patient, and a well arranged and concise exposition of the general method of treatment.

Dr. Holyoke was an early vaccinator. He was in the common practice of it in the beginning of 1802, if not sooner.†

* See Appendix I.

† The vaccine was received in this neighborhood directly from London, and a highly respectable physician now living in a neighboring town, was

As a surgical operator Dr. Holyoke had more than a mediocrity of talent and skill. He never appeared to have any extraordinary preference for this branch of his profession, but as a matter of necessity held himself qualified for all the usual demands for surgical treatment. In fact the opportunities for a display of surgical address are much less frequent in the population with which Dr. Holyoke has resided, than might be expected from its number. One of the Committee has heard him say there was a period of twenty five years, during which he saw nearly all the important cases of disease and accident, in the town of Salem, and yet never performed or witnessed an amputation of a large limb. This exemption from operations is to be ascribed partly to the character, the habits and occupations of the people. Agriculture and the fisheries were the principal pursuits, and the building of ships and houses the only mechanical employments in which there were likely to arise many occasions for surgical assistance. It must be allowed too, that the period in which Dr. Holyoke held the lead of practice in this vicinity, was characterized by a greater degree of *temperance* among laboring people, than existed in most large towns. Even at present, while it is acknowledged that the vice of intemperance has been, of late years, a growing evil, it is believed there are few

among the first, if not the very first person in America, *who fairly put in practice* the new method. This gentleman, who received the virus from his brother in London, commenced vaccinating in the spring of 1800, and with a praiseworthy liberality furnished the virus to all his professional brethren who applied for it.

seaports in which there is a less number of sots, in proportion to the whole population. The extreme rareness of the operation of Lithotomy is quite noticeable in this vicinity. The perfect purity of the water drank by the inhabitants of this town, is no doubt one cause of the infrequency of the disease requiring this operation. But for many years past, and previous to laying the logs of our aqueduct,* which brings us water that does not require distillation, to render it sufficiently pure for pharmaceutical purposes, the occurrence of a case of stone in the bladder, would have been considered a remarkable phenomenon in the practice of any physician. Notwithstanding, however, the infrequency of cases requring surgical operations, such was the extent of Dr. Holyoke's practice, that he was occasionally called upon to perform amputations, and other important operations; and in these cases his promptitude and success were such as procured him a high degree of reputation. So late as December 1821, when he was ninety two years old, he performed the operation of paracentesis. In the management of fractures he particularly excelled. No man handled a broken limb with more tenderness and adroitness.

As an obstetric practitioner he was greatly esteemed, and upon this branch of his business he seems to have bestowed extraordinary attention. On his first coming to this place, this department of the healing art, was entirely in the hands of igno-

* The aqueduct was first used in the summer of 1805.

rant midwives, and the physician was only called, in extraordinary cases, or to rectify some of the blunders of these practitioners. He has preserved an account of the first forty five obstetric cases which occurred to him. The first one which he "was persuaded to engage in" occurred 1755, after he had been six years in practice, and it was not till four years afterwards that he makes the record of a case which was the first "common easy birth which ever came under his management." Thus it happened that he was early taught to meet the *difficulties* of this branch of medical practice, and he acquired a fertility of expedients, and dependence on the resources of art, which no doubt, contributed to the safety of many a female in the hour of peril, after he became extensively engaged in attending to these cases.*

He received pupils during nearly all the period of his active practice; and some of the most distinguished physicians of New England were educated under his care.† Of his pupils there are thirteen now living.

The period of the revolution was a trying one to the subject of this memoir, and he never loved to dwell upon the recollection of it. His feelings in the spring and summer of 1775, were intensely painful. In referring to that period, he said to one of his family, he thought he should have died, with the sense of weight and oppression at his heart. He

* See Appendix K. † See Appendix L.

had sent his family to Nantucket, and the loneliness of his home, increased the feeling of desolation. Most of his intimate friends and near connexions favored the royal cause, and his own education had attached him to the established order of things, and his peaceful temper shrunk from the turmoil of a revolution. He thought this country destined to be independent, but believed the proper period had not arrived, and that weakness and dissension were likely to follow what he considered a premature disunion. But in after times when referring to these opinions, he was wont, with his usual ingenuousness, to say that the event had proved he was wrong in his prediction. He imputed to the revolution a change in the manners of the people, which will not be reckoned among its good effects. He thought there was a falling off in domestic discipline, and a relaxation of wholesome subordination among children, since the freedom of the colonies.

During this trying period he kept steadily occupied in his benevolent duties,* and such was his prudence, his inoffensive manners, and the universal respect for his virtues, that he did not meet with so much trouble as might have been expected from the unpopularity of his opinions. Although most distinguished men, who had adopted the royal cause, found it expedient to leave the country, it does not appear that he was ever impeded in the prosecution of his business or studies for a single day. Once

* See Appendix M.

only he committed himself, by signing an address, in common with a number of the most distinguished citizens of the town, complimentary to Gov. Hutchinson, who was about leaving the country. He afterwards felt himself obliged, as well as most of his associates, to publish a sort of apology for this act, which recantation, as it was called, contained nothing that was servile or disgraceful.* It does not appear that his practice was ever injured by the part he took in politics. He held a commission as a magistrate both before and after the revolution.

Dr. Holyoke was as little of a partizan in religion as in politics. He was firm and decided in his own opinions, but seems neither to have expected nor desired uniformity in christian belief. But although without any extravagant zeal, he was, emphatically, a *religious* man. A strong sense of moral accountability, an earnest desire to conform his actions to the will of God, and the cultivation of an ardent feeling of gratitude for divine mercy and protection, were manifested by his actions and conversation. These sentiments are often alluded to, in a feeling manner, in the memoranda he made of passing events, and especially of those accidents and occurrences which at different times had endangered his own life. He was a diligent student of the scriptures, and continued to read the New Testament in the original until the last year of his life. For many years he usually reperused this volume with great care, once every

* See Appendix N.

year. He was as constant in his attendance at church, as his numerous engagements would permit, and in the most busy period of his practice, would so arrange his business as most commonly to find time for public worship on some part of every Sunday. In deeds of piety and benevolence he was always active, and through life, had a systematic charity proportioned to his means. His gifts were bestowed with the most scrupulous secrecy, and from his intimacy in the families of all classes, seldom misapplied. The widowed mother and the orphan children, were often relieved by a present of money through the post office, which a grateful curiosity has traced to Dr. Holyoke.

The loss of his hearing was the greatest privation in respect to health which Dr. Holyoke suffered. This for many years impaired his enjoyment of the pleasures of society, for which he had so high a relish. When he was forty five years old, his eyesight required the aid of convex glasses. These he used for about forty years, when his eyesight gradually returned, and at the time of his death it was so perfect, as to enable him to read the finest print, without the aid of glasses. In early life he could see with much distinctness to a great distance, but after he left off his glasses he lost this power, and for the last few years, he has complained that objects at a distance were multiplied, so that he could see four or five moons, &c. An alteration in the refracting power of the chrystalline lens, not uncom-

mon in old age, and which occasions the image to be imperfectly formed upon the retina, might be considered the sole cause of this imperfection of sight, or it was perhaps connected with the state of the brain he so accurately describes in the account of his own case.

After he had passed his seventieth year, although at this time in full practice, he often expressed a fear that he was too old for his employment, and that his powers of mind had failed him. In particular for the last thirty years of his life, he was wont to lament his loss of memory, and say that he only read for amusement, and that his mind retained nothing. This, though true to a certain extent, his characteristic humility greatly exaggerated. He did retain the more important ideas which were traced in his mind, and kept up with the improvements in the practice of our art, to a degree most unusual for a man who had reached threescore years and ten. Since he attained his hundredth year, he passed an hour in the study of one of his medical acquaintances, and was greatly interested in inquiring what had been the last accounts of the operations for removal of urinary calculus by the new operation of lithontripty. Only one week previous to his last confinement, in February last, he dictated a letter to a gentleman in Connecticut, who had written to him requesting his opinion in a case of schirrus, in which letter Dr. Holyoke recommends the trial of Iodine, and gives full directions for its

administration. Perhaps these incidents of his last days, exhibit in a sufficiently clear manner, what was the most distinguishing intellectual trait of his whole character. It was that he was always ready to receive information,—that he kept his mind open, so to speak, and never allowed prejudice, or the conceit of great acquirements, to prevent his examining and adopting any thing which claimed to be a novelty or improvement.

The circumstance of his arriving to be an hundred years old, an occurrence so unusual to happen to any man, and of which it does not come within the knowledge of the Committee that there are many authentic accounts of its having happened before to *eminent* physicians,* was looked upon by the Doctor

* Some eminent physicians have attained great age, and several of them have their ages recorded at one hundred and upwards; but in almost all these cases, the contradictory accounts of authors, give us reason to doubt the correctness of the statements. Hippocrates is said by some authors to have died at 104, by others at 99. In Van der Linden de scriptis medicis, are the following instances. "Abhomeron Abenzoar, Arabs medicus et scriptor. Floruit circa annum Christi 1130 *vel* 1160. Vitam ad 135 annos produxisse *fertur*." "Abubeter Rhazes, Mahomethus. Poenus, vixit annos 120. Floruit circa A. C. 1070, *secundem alios* 1085."—These doubts shake our confidence in the correctness of the record.

In Belknap's History of New Hampshire, among the remarkable instances of longevity we find "In Durham, John Buss, a preacher of the gospel for 33 years, but not ordained; also a practitioner of physic, died 1736, at the age of 108. He was remarkably active and vigorous at a very advanced age." Vol. iii. p. 252. A death was announced in the newspapers of Oct. 1803, "at Ward, Mass. Hezekiah Meriam, physician, aged 100. He lived with his wife 78 years and she survived him."

In the topographical description of Honiton in Devonshire, (Gent. Mag. vol. lxiii. pt. 1, page 114,) mention is made of the tomb of "Thomas Marwood, gent. Physician to Queen Elizabeth, who died in the *Catholic* faith, 18th September, 1617, aged *above* 105."

The following authentic anecdote satisfies us that we must admit this gen-

and his friends as an era of very great interest. Upon this occasion his medical friends of Salem and

tleman's claims to eminence. "During that part of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when the Earl of Essex was most in favor, his lordship had a disease in his foot, which baffled the skill of the first medical men in the metropolis, and his existence was despaired of. Dr. Marwood of Honiton, a physician of the first eminence in the West of England, whose fame had reached the Queen's ear, was sent for, and was fortunate enough to perform the cure; when her Majesty desired the Doctor might be introduced; which being done accordingly, she asked him what favor she should grant him, to satisfy him for the great cure he had accomplished. And the Doctor being already possessed of an ample independence, which he had inherited from his ancestors and acquired by his profession, said, 'If her Majesty would grant him a favor, (mentioning one of a very trivial nature,) he should consider himself amply rewarded.' But the Queen, struck with his choice, declared he should accept of an estate near Honiton as a reward; which property forms at present part of the immense landed property of James Thomas Benedictus Marwood, esquire, of Avishays in the county of Somerset, and Sutton in the county of Devon, his lineal descendant." Op. Cit. 1809.

Surpassing these is an instance of medical longevity mentioned in the Gentlemen's Magazine for May 1781, concerning the subject of which nothing remarkable is recorded except his great age and his bequeathing five pounds a year to the poor of his parish. The inscription upon his tomb stone in Ware, County of Herts, England, renewed by the trustees of his benefactions to the parish, is as follows: "William Mead, M. D. who died Oct. 28, 1652, aged 148 years and 9 months." He was but four years younger than the celebrated old Parr, but more than twenty years younger than the well known prodigy of longevity, Henry Jenkins, the fisherman, who died at 169.

But even the last mentioned must give up his claims to seniority if the following instances rest on good authority, and there seems no reason to dispute the Welsh record from which they are taken. "Ivan Yorath buried a Saterage the xvii day of July anno Doni 1621, et anno regni regis vicessimo primo, annoq: aetatis circa 180. He was a souldier in the fight of Boswoorthe, and lived at Lantwitt Major, and he lived much by fishing." "Elizabeth Yeorath the wife of Edmund Thomas was buried the 13th day of February, in the year of our Lord God 1688, age 177." Extracts from the parish register of Lanmaes in the county of Glamorgan. Op. Cit. Vol. lxiii. pt. 1, p. 106.

Cases of longevity are not rare among persons not distinguished for their mental powers, and the close of life with such, is frequently a state of mere existence, "sans every thing." A circumstance as remarkable as any connected with the longevity of Dr. Holyoke is, that he retained the power of using his intellect with vigor and energy, and of communicating his ideas intelligibly to the last of his days. His letters written after he was an hundred years old prove this.

Fac-Simile of Dr. Holyoke's toast at the Centennial Cel-
-ebration at Salem 18.th Sep. 1828.

The Memory of our Pilgrim fore
Fathers; who first landed on this
spot, on the 6th Day of September
1628, just 2 Centuries ago this
Day; Who forsook their native Coun-
try & all they held dear, that they
might enjoy the Liberty of worship-
ing the God of their Fathers, agreably
to the Dictates of their Consciences.

Eddy del. Pendletons Lithog.

Boston united to pay their respect to him, by inviting him to a public dinner. At this period he appeared in perfect health, and his firm and elastic step, his cheerful and benevolent looks, his easy and graceful manners, the model of the old school of gentlemen, his nicely powdered wig, his dress arranged with studied neatness, and just enough of antiquated fashion to remind one that he belonged to the generation gone by, but not outraging the proprieties of the present mode, his accustomed nosegay slipped through his button-hole, and his affectionate and grateful greeting of those who had assembled to do him honor, will never be forgotten, or remembered without delight, by those who witnessed them. He partook of the hilarity of the occasion with an evident zest, and when called upon for a toast, offered in his own hand-writing, a sentiment perfectly appropriate and professional, accompanied with a paternal and touching benediction upon the medical brethren who were present. At the same time the District Medical Society testified their respect for him, by requesting him to sit for his portrait to be placed in their library. It is from this portrait the print is taken which is prefixed to this memoir. The anniversary of his birth day was on the 13th August, and on the 18th September, the centennial anniversary of the settlement of the town, he was again induced to take part in the public celebration. On this occasion he offered the toast we have selected to preserve as an autograph. The

excitement of these occasions appeared rather to invigorate him than otherwise, and he afterwards visited Boston and Cambridge, and the place of his birth; upon all which occasions he enjoyed much gratification. This was, however, the last lighting up of the spark of life, and in about a month he began to feel the approach of that disease which terminated his life.

Among those to whose unwearied assiduities the subject of this memoir owed much of the comfort of his latter days, it may be allowed us to mention his eldest daughter, Miss Margaret Holyoke. After the marriage of his other daughters, and the death of Mrs. Holyoke, in 1802, the care of his family devolved on his daughter Margaret. She was an excellent woman, of a contemplative, well-informed mind, devotedly fond of her father whom she held in the highest veneration. From the character of her mind she was well fitted to be her father's best companion, and her death, which occurred January 25, 1825, was a severe blow to him, and appears to have cast an unusual gloom upon his prospects of prolonged life. In recording the event of her death among some of the domestic occurrences of the year, he adds the feeling aspiration, "Sit anima mea, tecum, filia carissima!"

The close of Dr. Holyoke's life was a period of quiet and calm domestic enjoyment, but not of idleness or disgust. He received the visits of those who waited on him to testify their respect for his

venerable and virtuous character, with great affability and apparent gratification. He did not make the uncertainty of life and his being near the close of it an excuse for inaction. After he had completed his hundredth year he commenced a manuscript, which he entitled recollections, in which he proposed to minute down some of the changes in the manners, dress, dwellings and employments of the inhabitants of Salem.* This occupation was suggested to him by a letter of inquiries on these topics from a gentleman of antiquarian taste and research in Pennsylvania. The few slight memoranda we have inserted in the Appendix, will show the nature and interest of this task which was interrupted by his last sickness.

In seeking for the causes of his length of life, and enjoyment of health, it seems obvious that he owed these to a rare combination of natural advantages with the habits of life best calculated to preserve these advantages. He was a happy example of a sound mind, associated with a sound body, neither of which was matured or maintained at the expense of the other. In his person he was rather below the middle stature, but it was impossible for the most indifferent observer, not to perceive that his body was compact and well built, and exactly proportioned; and that it was calculated for strength, activity and endurance. His mind was likewise not characterized by any striking or prominent quality,

* See Appendix O.

but was active, vigorous, exact, observant and distinguishing. His good state of health was not owing to his entire exemption from occasional acute diseases. When he was but seven years old he suffered a severe attack of tetanus from drinking cold water, and to this cause he sometimes attributed the spasmodic affection of the muscles of the lower limbs, which was so frequently brought on by any food which disagreed with his stomach. During his pupilage he had a severe fever, attended with delirium, which lasted more than a month, and during the rest of his life was occasionally confined by cholera, by fever, and by inflammations of the throat and lungs. He required and sought but little relaxation from professional occupations, and these of the simplest kind. Occasional short visits to the neighboring towns, where his connexions resided, a weekly evening conversation club,* and the culture

* Dr. Holyoke took great pleasure in the meetings of his Monday night club. Their object was improvement in philosophy and literature by reading and conversation. Some of the most amiable and distinguished individuals who ever belonged to this town were associated in it. Their meetings were interrupted by the breaking out of the revolution, and commenced again in 1779. During the period of their suspension, or at least a part of it, so strong were the Doctor's attachments to the memory of his friends, that he was accustomed to devote the usual evening of their meeting every week, to conversing about them with his family, who were assembled for the purpose. In this club originated the "Social Library," and the "Philosophical Library," which, united, formed the foundation of our Athenæum. The "Social Library," was a very respectable collection of books for the period in which it was founded, viz. 1760. It was created by donations of books from the private libraries of the founders and by a subscription of money. It was afterwards enlarged by assessments. The occasion of forming the "Philosophical Library," was the capture in a prize vessel during the revolutionary war of the private library of the celebrated chemist, Kirwan. Some of the

of his garden, were his principal resources for amusement. As an indoor recreation he was fond of the sober game of chess, which was the only game of skill he was accustomed to play at. He now and then indulged in a party upon the water in summer, and for many years of the early part of his life, in his favorite exercise of skating upon the ice in winter, in which exercise he was well skilled. He sometimes too, upon festive occasions, till he thought his age rendered it unbecoming, mixed in the sprightly dance, of which he was said to be fond.

His avocations did not afford him the leisure to

best books of our Athenæum were obtained from these collections, such as the Philosophical Transactions, Memoirs of the French Academy and other learned bodies. Dr. Holyoke was among the earliest and most liberal contributors to these institutions, of which he was a trustee till they were merged in the Athenæum in 1810. He was trustee and president of this corporation from its foundation to his death.

Mr. Thomas Robie was the last survivor except Dr. Holyoke of the ante-revolutionary club, and the venerable senior pastor of the first church is the only one now living of the Monday night club. This latter gentleman has always been distinguished for his zeal in philosophical pursuits, and Dr. Holyoke was often his associate in many interesting experiments and astronomical observations.

Among the names of the persons who constituted Dr. Holyoke's club and his intimate acquaintance, in those days, were those of Andrew Oliver, Judge of the County Court, Nath. Ropes and Benj. Lynde, Judges of the Superior Court, Rev. Wm. McGilchrist of the Episcopal church, who was educated at Oxford and distinguished as a mathematician, Rev. Thomas Barnard of the First church, Rev. Dr. Barnard of the North church, Dr. Ernestus Plummer, Dr. Putnam, who was cotemporary with Dr. Holyoke, Mr. Wm. Pynchon, an eminent lawyer, Col. Pickman, Col. Frye, Col. Browne, afterwards Governor of Bermuda, Col. Eppes Sargent, Col. Ichabod Plaisted, Mr. Stephen Higginson, Mr. Thomas Robie, and Mr. Sam'l Curwen. More than half a century ago, an eminent Boston divine used to say there was no pulpit in which he should not choose to preach an ordinary sermon sooner than that of Mr. Thomas Barnard, of the First church in Salem, to whose parish most of these men belonged. Many of them were men of accurate literary attainments, great critical acumen, and of considerable research in theology.

carry on literary or scientific correspondence to the same extent that some other eminent men have done. But he kept up a regular and sprightly interchange of friendly letters with some intimate friends in this country and England, and numbered among his occasional correspondents several eminent philosophers of his day, among whom were Dr. Priestley and Sir Charles Blagden. His taste for the belles letters and the fine arts, which he manifested early in life, would doubtless have enabled him to have made a respectable figure as a man of taste; but all these pursuits seem to have been early laid aside, lest they should interfere with his medical studies and occupations. While in college he took lessons in drawing and painting, and occasionally in the early part of his life, exhibited slight specimens of his talent in this line. He was somewhat fond of poetry,* and appears to have been capable of appreciating its beauties and judging of its merits.

Of his temperance there is one remark which we think it of consequence to make, since it shows the error of those who think that temperance consists in relinquishing some articles of food or drink, while they indulge to an injurious excess in others. His was a temperance of *moderate desires*, that never led him to err in *quantity*, and thereby rendered him less solicitous about the *quality* of his food. The following letter, written last autumn, in answer to one he received from a gentleman, who had ad-

* See Appendix P.

dressed to him some inquiries concerning his habits and mode of life, gives a satisfactory and interesting account of these matters.

To ——— ——— ——— Williamsville, Person County, North Carolina.

*Salem, Oct'r* — 1828.

Sir,

I received yours of the 20th ult. on y^e^ 30th, wherein you wish me to give you some Account of my Mode of Life, &c.—In answer to which I would first mention that I was providentially blessed with an excellent Constitution—that I never injured this constitution by Intemperance of any kind—but invigorated it by constant Exercise, having from my 30th to my 80th Year walked on foot (in the Practice of my Profession)—probably as many as 5 or 6 miles every day, amounting to more than a *million** of miles, and tho' sometimes much fatigued, the next Night's refreshing Sleep, always completely restored me. In early life, between 20 and 30, I used to ride on Horse back, but being often pestered by my Horses slipping their Bridles I found it more convenient to walk.

As to my Diet, having been taught to eat of any

* This seems to have been a slip of the pen, the following is his own calculation, made in 1823, and which from his great dread of exaggeration falls short of half the actual amount. "If from my age of 20 to 80 years I have walked 5 miles a day, which is a moderate calculation, I must have gone in that 60 years, . . . . . 109,500 miles.
And in the first 20 and last 15 years, . . 38,325
In 95 years probably, Total, . . . . 147,825

thing that was provided for me, and having always a good Appetite, I am never anxious about my food, and I do not recollect any thing, that is commonly eaten, that does not agree with my Stomach, except fresh roasted Pork, which tho' very agreeable to my Palate, almost always disagrees with me; for which however I have a remedy, in the Spirit of Sal Ammoniac. Eight or Ten drops of Aqua Ammonia pura in a wine glass of Water, gives me relief after Pork, and indeed after any thing else which offends my stomach. As to the Quantity, I am no great Eater, and I find my appetite sooner satisfied now than formerly;—there is one peculiarity in my Diet which as it may perhaps have contributed to Health I would mention; I am fond of Fruit, and have this 30 or more years daily indulged in eating freely of those of the Season, as Strawberries, Currants, Peaches, Plums, Apples, &c. which in summer and winter I eat just before Dinner, and seldom at any other time, and indeed very seldom eat any thing whatever between meals.—My Breakfast I vary continually. Coffee, Tea, Chocolate, with toasted bread and butter, Milk with Bread toasted in hot weather, but never any meat in my Life—seldom the same Breakfast more than 2 or 3 days running. Bread of Flour makes a large portion of my Food, perhaps near 1-2. After Dinner I most commonly drink one glass of Wine—plain boiled rice I am fond of—it makes nearly 1-2 of my Dinner perhaps as often as every other Day—I rarely eat Pickles or

any high seasoned Food—Vegetable food of one kind or other makes commonly 2-3 or 3-4 of my nourishment—the condiments I use are chiefly Mustard, Horse radish and Onions. As to Drinks, I seldom take any but at meal times and with my Pipe—in younger Life my most common draft was Cider, seldom Wine, seldom or never Beer or Ale or distilled Spirits—But for the last 40 or 50 years, my most usual drink has been a Mixture, a little singular indeed, but as for me it is still palateable and agreeable, I still prefer it—The Mixture is this, viz. Good West India Rum 2 Spoonfuls, Good Cider whether new or old 3 Spoonfuls, of Water 9 or 10 Spoonfuls—of this Mixture (which I suppose to be about the strength of common Cider) I drink about 1-2 a Pint with my Dinner and about the same Quantity with my Pipe after Dinner and my Pipe in the Evening, never exceeding a Pint the whole Day; and I desire nothing else except one glass of Wine immediately after Dinner the whole day. I generally take one Pipe after Dinner and another in the Evening, and hold a small piece of pigtail Tobacco in my mouth from Breakfast till near Dinner, and again in the Afternoon till tea; this has been my practice for 80 years—I use no Snuff—I drink tea about sunset and eat with it a small slice of Bread toasted with Butter—I never eat any thing more till Breakfast.

I have not often had any complaint from indigestion, but when I have, abstinence from Breakfast or

Dinner, or both, has usually removed it; indeed I have several times thrown off serious Complaints by Abstinence.—As to Clothing, it is what my Friends call thin; I never wear Flannel next my Skin tho' often advised to it, and am less liable to take cold, as it is called, than most people—a good warm double breasted Waist-Coat and a Cloth coat answers me for winter, and as the season grows warmer I gradually conform my Covering to it.—As to the Passions, Sir, I need not tell you that when indulged, they injure the Health; that a calm, quiet self possession, and a moderation in our Expectations and Pursuits, contribute much to our Health, as well as our happiness, and that Anxiety is injurious to both.

I had a good Set of Teeth but they failed me gradually, without Pain, so that by 80 I lost them all.

Thus, Sir, you have, blundering and imperfect as it is, an answer to your Requests, with my best wishes that it may be of any service to the Purpose for which it was made—But must rely upon it that Nothing I have written be made public in my Name.* Wishing you long Life and many happy Days, I am Yours, &c.

E. A. H.

P. S. I forgot to speak of my repose. When I began the practice of Physick, I was so often call'd

* This prohibition could only have regard to the period of his life time, and was occasioned by that extreme modesty which always rendered it painful to the Doctor to be held up to the public notice.

up soon after retiring to Rest, that I found it most convenient to sit to a late Hour, and thus acquired a Habit of sitting up late, which necessarily occasioned my lying in bed to a late Hour in the Morning—till 7 o'cl'k in Summer and 8 in Winter. My Business was fatiguing and called for ample repose, and I have always taken care to have a full proportion of Sleep, which I suppose has contributed to my longevity.

A lameness in my right hand obliges me to employ an amanuensis.*

In summing up the character of our venerable friend, it is not too much to say, he was a perfect model of the general practitioner of medicine. His manners were equally removed from servility and arrogance. Free from dogmatism, and trusting to the mild dignity of his manners to enforce his precepts, nothing excited his displeasure more than the swaggering, *Radcliffe* style assumed by some men to impose an idea of their consequence upon the vulgar, who are sometimes prone to believe that excessive rudeness is a mark of genius, and that consummate insolence, is, not unfrequently, coupled with consummate skill. These people he used to term "medical bucks."

* This lameness was occasioned by a slipping of the tendons of the exterior communis digitorum from their proper place in the groove of the metacarpal bones, just where the knuckle is formed, into the spaces between these bones. Dr. Holyoke always attributed this lameness to the absorption of the bone from age and not to disease.

His regard for truth was scrupulous and sincere, and this was obvious in his reasoning upon facts, for he was never known to form a deduction which required the sacrifice or modification of an important fact in the premises; but he rather suffered his judgment to remain suspended, and waited for a farther insight into the operations of nature. From the same cause, a letter of recommendation or introduction coming from him, even in behalf of the most valued of his friends, was sure to contain not one word more, than came within the scope of the author's personal knowledge and observation.

The respect in which his person and character were held, by the inhabitants of this place, was almost enthusiastic. The whole of the present generation have been *taught* to look upon him with veneration, and to pronounce his name with affection and respect. His name was sought for in every undertaking for the welfare of the community, as a sort of passport to the confidence of his fellow citizens. When a few years since some pilferer had taken from his door-post the thermometer which had been suspended there for so many years, from which he had taken his daily observations of temperature, the act was viewed as a sort of sacrilege, and it was generally agreed that it could not have been the deed of a *Salem* thief, for it was thought there could be none in town so base, as not to respect the property of the Salem patriarch. It is difficult to speak of the estimation in which all classes united

in holding him, without being suspected of exaggeration, but it is certainly safe to say that all who knew him, regarded him as having reached a height of moral rectitude as elevated as was ever attained by uninspired human nature ; and what his eulogist said of him was literally the absolute conviction of his friends, " that knowingly to do wrong, in a single instance, would have required in him as severe an effort as the practice of elevated virtue in most men." This veneration of all who knew him must be regarded as arising from the possession of some peculiar and unusual moral qualities. He was obviously less *selfish* than most men. His ready generosity and the moderate competence with which he always contented himself, prove this. But still more peculiar was the perfect simplicity and singleness of heart which marked his moral conduct. There was no *effort*, he *acted* right because he *felt* right, and every one could see that the kindness of his manner was a sincere expression of the kindness of his heart. It was the perfect confidence which every one had in the habitual rectitude and purity of his intentions that induced persons of all ages and of all classes to look upon him as a sympathizing friend to whom they might safely intrust their most important interests. His sickness and expected death were the most common topics of inquiry with the citizens of Salem for some days previous to his decease ; and when this event took place, it was announced by the tolling of all the church bells of the town, a mark of

respect never known to have been shown to any others than the late presidents of the United States. All classes of persons thronged to his funeral to pay their tribute of respect to his memory, and the eulogy, pronounced over his remains by his pastor and intimate friend, the reverend Mr. Brazer, was a chastened effort of genuine and touching eloquence, and a delineation of his moral and religious character, which was recognized as faithful and just, by the crowded assembly before whom it was pronounced. As that production is now before the public, we have avoided enlarging upon some points in regard to the character of Dr. Holyoke which are ably and fully expatiated upon by his eulogist.

Dr. Holyoke enjoyed his usual health until November 24th, 1828, when on returning from a short ride, he received an injury in his right leg in getting out of the carriage. The iron step struck him just below the knee, and turned down a triangular flap of skin of about two inches in length, an accident from which he was sometime in recovering. After this period his health visibly declined, although he continued to exercise nearly as usual until the 25th of January, after which time he ceased to go out. About the close of November he began to experience pain about the region of the stomach, which for some time had a diurnal exacerbation at about 11 o'clock, A. M. with occasional hiccough. This pain destroyed his usual cheerfulness and spirits, for an hour or more of each day, and after this the de-

pression passed off and his usual serenity returned. His pulse was not remarkably altered except occasionally intermitting; a phenomenon which was common during several of the last years of his life. On the first of March he went into his chamber, although on that day he retained enough of vigor to dress himself as usual. From this time he was principally confined to his bed, and his appetite greatly diminished; but with the diminution of appetite, and consequently of food, the pain of the stomach abated. About fourteen days previous to his death, he was attacked with pain of the lower extremities, principally in the heel and great toe of the left foot. After five or six days of this pain, the skin of the parts most pained grew darker than natural, and at length complete sphacelus took place, ultimately extending to the knee. About a week before his death he suffered pain of the extremities in an intense degree, and on this occasion, in the course of twelve hours, he took 40 drops of Acet. Opii. which he bore well, and which had the effect of producing comparative ease. He now felt conscious that delirium was approaching, and mentioned that he should lose his senses, and had occasional periods of delirium till his death, which occurred at six o'clock of Tuesday, the 31st of March. On the Sunday previous to the day of his death, at ten A. M. he was raised in bed to discharge his urine, which he was not able to accomplish, and in four or five minutes fell back exhausted. Stupor immediately super-

vened, and he remained with his eyes partially closed, and unable to speak or to swallow; the left side paralyzed, the right hand and arm frequently in motion, pulse hardly perceptible.

The following are his own memoranda in reference to the state of his health for sometime previous to his decease, and, except that his expressions concerning a "vacuity" are not perfectly definite, and perhaps imply that there was some space within the cranium not occupied by the brain and the effused fluid, must be regarded as a specimen of sound pathological reasoning, fully justified by the state of the parts as exhibited on dissection.

February 9th, 1826.

"I am now between 97 and 98 years old, and enjoy good health, excepting now and then a cramp in my lower extremities, which I have always been subject to, and the complaint I now attempt to describe.

"About 10 or 11 years ago, I found that in walking I was apt to lose my equilibrium, and sometimes to stagger like one intoxicated, particularly if I looked up to see the town clock, or how the wind blew, in doing which I have several times nearly fallen to the ground; this complaint gradually increased.

"About two months past I perceived an odd and unusual sensation in my head when I suddenly

changed my posture, which to my feeling was as if a moderately ponderous fluid fluctuated over the surface of the brain, and when I turned in my bed, I felt as it were a fluid flowing from the side I had been laying on, to the other side of my head. And when I sat up in bed, after having been awhile on my left side, I felt as if a fluid floated over to the right, and carried my head with considerable force along with it. When I lay my head down on my pillow at night, I have a sensation like what I suppose would arise from the pressure of a fluid flowing down to the back of my head, and crowding it down hard upon the pillow; this sensation of crowding continues but 3 or 4 seconds, after which I feel no more of it till I alter my posture.

"One morning in November last, upon getting out of bed, the impetus of the fluid (if there is one) was so great as to throw me on the floor, though I exerted my utmost endeavor to keep myself on my feet; since which I have been more on my guard, and though I have never since been thrown to the ground, I have twice since been thrown into a chair which stood by the bed side, which saved me from falling. While I sit still I feel no complaint, but every sudden motion of the head is apt to produce a trace of it.

"This fluctuation, which never lasts more than a very few seconds, is not attended with the least degree of pain, nor any loss of consciousness even for a moment, nor am I sensible that the faculties of

my mind are injured or affected by it, in the least; nor have I ever perceived any gyratory motion such as vertiginous patients complain of.

"Presuming that in order to our walking steadily it is necessary that the cranium be completely filled by the brain, and observing that persons greatly advanced in age were apt to walk unsteadily, to lose their balance, to stumble and fall, as is the case with me, I am led to suspect that the brain in such subjects becomes shrivelled and contracted, and that from this cause a vacuity takes place.

"And may not a fluid be lodged between the dura and pia mater, without injuring the functions of the brain, if it be not so accumulated as to compress it?

"When I first felt the fluid it seemed as thin as water, and to shift its place as quickly as water would, but lately it appears in less quantity, and as if more viscid, and longer in passing from one side of my head to the other.

"I would observe further, that from my first feeling the propensity to stagger and stumble, the complaint has been invariably greater in the evening than in the fore part of the day.

### Queries.

"1. May not old age, or some disease, induce such a shrinking, or collapse, of the contents of the cranium, as that they may not completely fill it,

without sensibly injuring the functions of the brain? And if so

"2. May not a serous fluid occupy that void, without injury to the functions of the brain, provided it be not accumulated in such quantities as to take up more room than the brain did in its natural healthy state?

"3. And would not such a state of the encephalon, account for the appearances of the symptoms just mentioned?"

The foregoing contains a connected account of the facts and his reasoning upon them. The following detached observations, show the continuance of the symptoms with some modifications, and prove his opinion to have remained unchanged concerning the nature of the alterations within the cranium, which he was accustomed to consider the natural consequences of his advanced age, rather than the result of any disease.

"My idea of the disease is this—I presume that we are not able to walk steadily, unless the cavity of the cranium be so full as to prevent the brain from being agitated when the head is in motion. I presume also that by disease or old age, the brain may be so shrunk or shrivelled as to leave such a vacuity as to allow the brain to vacillate, and so produce the staggering and unsteady walking, so common to persons much advanced in age.

"And if such a cavity exists, I presume it may become dropsical, as every other cavity of the body may.

"And if the fluid does not entirely fill the cavity, there may be a fluctuation; and as in this case there can be no compression, the functions of the brain will in no degree be injured by such a dropsy.

"As the whole human frame shrinks with age, and we grow less in all our dimensions, I see no absurdity in supposing the brain to do so too; unless we suppose the bony cavity to contract in proportion—which I think is not probable.

"I have stated my case to several physicians, but none of them are disposed to admit of a collection of a fluid between the dura and pia mater; but as my impressions and feelings are distinct and determinate as if I saw the fluid with my eyes, I am compelled to believe that such a one does really exist. May not a complete fullness of the cavity of the cranium be necessary to enable us to walk steadily? May not the tottering and proneness to fall, incident to age, be accounted for by supposing the brain to shrivel and contract, as the whole body does in advanced age, so as to leave a vacuity; and may not that vacuity be supposed to contain a fluid, as every other cavity sometimes does? Now if this fluid does not occupy so much space as the brain did, the function of the brain may not be injured, though the instability may be much increased."

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In the interesting post mortem examination which follows, will be found some explanation of the symptoms described above, and the principal facts, the shrinking or collapse of the brain from age, and existence of a fluid to supply the deficiency, accord precisely with the language used above. At this examination all the physicians of the town were invited to attend, and most of them were present, and their attention was particularly directed to those organs and textures which are usually found affected in very aged persons. It must be admitted that these organs and textures were found in a surprizingly sound state, and the dissection fully justified the remark of a learned writer upon old age,* that most aged persons die of actual disease in organs not worn out by the length of time they have been performing their functions. The bodies of very many persons at 60 years, exhibit on dissection more of the appearances which are thought to result from age, than did Dr. Holyoke's.

On examining the body externally, it was found to be somewhat emaciated, the left leg sphacelated to the knee, the abdomen lank and dark colored, the thorax resounding naturally in every part, the scalp nearly denuded of hair. On dividing and turning

* Sir A. Carlisle.

back the scalp, which was very thin and delicate, not a single drop of blood flowed. Although the utmost care was taken in sawing the cranium, as soon as the saw penetrated the inner table, a transparent fluid began to flow, and on removing the calvarium, it was found that the dura mater was adherent to the bone nearly throughout its whole extent, an alteration which did not seem to depend on disease, the distinction between the two tables of the cranium entirely obliterated, and the texture of the bone more dense than common. The tunica arachnoidea was very firm and opaque; the veins beneath it were very small, containing but little blood. The brain was very firm and dense, and the convolutions very strongly marked; the sulci were wide and deep. The color was somewhat darker than common, and the whole feeling and appearance of the brain was as if it had been subjected to the action of alcohol. A small quantity of serous fluid was found beneath the tunica arachnoidea. The cortical portion of the brain was extremely thin, being less than an eighth of an inch in thickness. In the ventricles nothing unusual was discovered. The pineal gland was extremely small, and contained no particle of gritty matter. The cerebellum was thought to be disproportionately small.

On removing the sternum, the lungs collapsed throughout, and exhibited the cavity of the thorax of unusual capaciousness. The cartilages were ossified, but were easily divided by a strong knife.

The pleuræ appeared perfectly free from every mark of disease, except in both sides of the thorax there was adhesion at the apex of the lung for a small extent; at this part a very superficial portion of both lungs was hepatized, but without any mark of recent disease. Spots of black pulmonary matter were very abundant on the surface of the lungs. The substance of the lungs was free from disease, with the exception above stated.

The heart was of small size and without fat. The pericardium was adherent to a small part of its anterior surface at the base. The cavities were examined in the course of the blood from the right auricle to the aorta, and no alteration of structure from the most perfectly healthy state could be discovered in walls of the cavities, the fossa ovalis, the tricuspid valves, the semilunar of the pulmonary artery, the mitral valves, and the semilunar or sigmoid of the aorta, except perhaps that these latter discovered a slight degree of rigidity at their attached margin, but by no means such as to interfere with their flexibility and free motion. The arch of the aorta, and several inches of its descending portion, were found to be in perfectly healthy condition, except two or three needle-like spiculæ of bone.

On opening the abdomen, the stomach appeared smaller than common, and contracted about its middle, as if a band were tied round it, and at this part its coats felt solid and much thickened. On opening the stomach, it was found that its middle por-

tion, including about a third of its extent, and making a complete circumference of the viscus, presented the appearance of schirrus, and was contracted so as hardly to admit the passage of a finger. This contraction divided the stomach into two portions, of which the superior or cardiac portion was the most diseased. The mucous coat was corrugated, and dark colored, with ecchymosed spots and points. About the middle of the great curvature was a superficial ulcer of an inch in diameter. The pylorus, the cardiac orifice, and the æsophagus, were in a healthy condition.

The liver was natural—the gall bladder enlarged to twice its natural size, filled with thin chocolate colored bile, and a calculus of the size and shape of a small nutmeg. The gall ducts pervious and natural. The spleen was adherent to the diaphragm and omentum, was externally firm, white and of a cartilaginous appearance, and its internal substance dark colored and semifluid. Small intestines, contracted, dark colored, and resembling in color the sphacelated limb. On the mucous coat, which was chocolate colored, the bloodvessels were very turgid, the valvulæ conniventes slightly thickened. The large intestines were more free from disease, the valve of the cœcum perfectly natural in structure. Both kidneys contained on their surface and in their substance several small hydatids. The ureters were pervious and natural. The bladder was filled with urine, and presented a perfectly natural struc-

ture, except the interlacement of the fibres of the muscular coat was more distinct and prominent than common. The prostate gland was not enlarged, and presented nothing unnatural to the feeling.

It is perhaps a fact worth noticing, that there should have been so little derangement of structure in the parts last described, which are so commonly diseased, in advanced life. On the evening before his death, his motions indicating uneasiness about the bladder, his urine was evacuated with a catheter. Not the least difficulty was experienced in passing the instrument.

The descending aorta and the iliac arteries were flexible and free from ossification.

# APPENDIX.

## A.

### EXPERIMENTS ON EVAPORATION.

The Committee are aware that the fact of evaporation producing cold was known a few years previous to the date of the following experiments. But it is hardly probable they could have been promulgated in this country. The originality of the experiments must therefore be a matter of some uncertainty.

"The 16th of June, 1758, my thermometer being at 68°, I touched the foot of it with a feather dipped in spirit of rosemary, which was not quite so strong as proof spirit. The mercury presently began to lower, and in a few minutes got down to 63°, —just 5° less. As soon as the thermometer had risen to its former standing height, I touched the foot with spirit nitri dulcis, which immediately produced the same effect,—and in about four or five minutes, brought the mercury down 5°, which (the evaporation being finished) began to rise again in about six minutes,— and in fifteen minutes regained its proper standing height. I soon after applied water, which had stood in the same room all the day before, (as indeed both the above mentioned liquids had,) as above, when it lowered the mercury 2°, namely from 65° to 63°, in the space of about two minutes. I then, in the fourth place, took a feather, and holding it in my mouth, wet it with saliva, and touched with it the foot of the thermometer, when the mercury was standing at 65°, which in three minutes and a

half, fell down to 63°, although upon its first application, it rose a little, perhaps a third of a degree,—which fully shows that cold is somehow produced by evaporation."

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## B.

### REFLECTIONS ON TIME.

Of his philosophical habit of viewing all subjects, and of seeking a rational mode of accounting for phenomena, the following thoughts, extracted from a little memorandum book found among his papers, may be taken as an early specimen.

"*Of Time.*—Sunday, July 28th, after 10h. eve'g,—1751. Time seems to bear the same relation to infinite duration, as place does to infinite space,—they are neither of them any thing till they are measured, or bounded. There is one property of time, which is apparent, I believe, to every one who considers any thing about it, (I am sure it has been so to me ever since I have been able to measure time,) which is perhaps something difficult to account for;—that is, that the last year always appears shorter than any other with which the observer can compare it. I believe the reason of it may be something like this; viz. that the oftener any idea passes the mind the more slight is the trace that is left behind it. In short, the same idea may pass the mind so often, and become so habitual, that the mind shall not reflect upon it at all. For instance, the first time a man, not born there, sees the city of London,—the concourse of people, the magnificence of the buildings, &c.—the traces left in the mind are deep, and perhaps if he should never see London again, yet he would never forget the first impression. But let him take up his abode there for any length of time, and every day he will be less and less affected with these objects:—at length he will pass crowds without noticing them,—of the magnificence of the buildings he will no more be sensible,—nay, he will hear bow-bells ring without knowing it. This, I say, seems to be the case before us:—spring and autumn have nothing new in them to one who has seen them fifteen or twenty times over,—and summer's heat, or winter's cold pass equally unobserved.

But if to one in the bloom of life the year appear so short, and the seasons all blended one with another,—what must the last year be to one fifty or sixty years old? Methinks time can then scarcely be measured,—and ages then appear like years to youth. Yet time is still measured out by hours, days, months, and years, —all of the same length as they were before. What then, if they still appear shorter to me,—to me they are shorter. Oh! may I have time to repent."

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## C.

### SEPTEMBER STORM OF 1815.

The months of August and September, were remarkable for storms and violent tempests upon the ocean, from the line to our latitude. On the 23d September, the wind being at N. E. in the morning, between 7 and 8 o'clock, the wind began to blow a storm, which continued with great violence, nearly approaching to a hurricane, till 2 o'clock, when it began to abate. It blew down the tops of many chimneys, blew in many casements, threw down Lombard poplars, Peach trees, Apple and other fruit trees. But this town suffered comparatively little. The storm seemed to be most severe about Providence, where the lower parts of the town were inundated by the rise of the water in the river, 14 or 15 feet higher than the usual tides, vessels were driven far up on the land, houses, barns, stores, were blown down or washed away by the tide, to the immense destruction of goods and property of every kind. The storm extended northwardly beyond the river St. Lawrence, but how far we have not heard; on the 20th, (three days before this,) a most violent hurricane was felt at Turks Island, which did immense damage, and more than any other we have heard from; among other losses 'tis said 400,000 hhds. of salt were destroyed.

N. B. The blast was so violent, that it blew the spray of the salt water of the ocean from the sea coast into the country 30 miles or upwards; most probably 90 miles, certainly as far as

Worcester, which destroyed the verdure of the leaves upon all the trees—blew all the apples and other fruit to the ground, and injured but did not destroy, the Indian corn—threw down fences and barns, and killed cattle, but happily few men were lost in this vicinity, though southerly ten or twelve persons were killed and drowned in various places. We have no record of any storm equal to this, since the settlement of the country.

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## D.

### DYSENTERY OF 1761, AND DR. HOLYOKE'S TREATMENT.

In the beginning of September, of this year, a dysentery began to prevail, though there were a few seized with it in the middle of August, and it had attained to its height in some towns, (particularly in Marblehead, where it carried off great numbers,) before it grew rife with us. In general the stools were not very bloody, and many had not any severe tormina; in most it came on with a slight chill or rigor, and pains of the limbs, particularly of the thighs and legs, and great prostration of strength; but few had any great nausea at first. The stools, in most, degenerated from a lax thin consistence, to mucous slime tinged with blood; in many the fever was inconsiderable, but the case was commonly worse in proportion to the degree of it. The general method which succeeded most frequently, and which indeed seldom failed, if gone into early, was this; if there was great nausea, I began with an emetic of Ipecac: and Ant: Vitr: Cer: but in some I began the cure with a dose of Ant: Vitr: Cer: per se, unless, (as sometimes I was forced to,) I disguised it by adding Rhubarb. I generally gave it to adults in this dose and manner; I took about 6 or 8 grs. of the Ant: Vitr: Cer: and put 4 or 5 grs. in one paper and the remainder in another, directing the largest part to be given immediately, as soon as I was called, whether at morning, at noon, or night, in a little molasses, or the pulp of a roasted apple, and the remainder of the dose in 3 hours, if the first did not operate in that

time. This method of giving it, generally secured the operation of a medicine, in its own nature sufficiently precarious; this medicine most commonly answered best, when it operated very freely, though in some few instances it occasioned an *hypercatharsis.* I directed this purge to be wrought off with water gruel, ordering also frequent and large draughts of a decoction of Marsh Mallows and Comfrey roots, in water or milk and water. At night I gave an anodyne, generally of Liq'd Laudanum, the next day I repeated the Ant: Vitr: Cer: in the same manner, though in an increased dose, for I almost universally found, that if the first dose did not overwork, the second, if not increased, would scarcely work at all; and I constantly gave an anodyne at night while the disease continued, unless the pain and tenesmus were inconsiderable, or some very material circumstance forbade it. I continued this purge every day, or every other day, as the patient's strength would admit, till the stools began to put on a more healthy appearance; and the pain and tormina abated; as soon as I experienced this to be the case, I gave the following decoction: ℞ Lign: Campescan: Ras: ʒ i Aq: Bullient. lb. iij coq: ad lb. ij. Cap: ʒ ij secunda quâque horâ—this almost always mitigated the pains and rendered the stools of a good consistence, and less frequent, and many dysenteries were cured this season, with this purge and decoction.

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## E.

### LETTER ON MERCURIALS.

*From the New York Medical Repository,* vol. i. p. 500.

A letter to Dr. —— ——, in Answer to his Queries respecting the Introduction of the Mercurial Practice in the vicinity of Boston, Mass. By Edward A. Holyoke, M. D., of Salem, Mass.

Dear Sir,

When, upon reading some late English publications, you find the exhibition of mercurial medicines in inflammatory diseases recommended as a *new* practice, though the same is so common

and frequent in this vicinity; you naturally inquire how long this practice has been in vogue among *us*, and by whom, or by what means, it was first introduced?

I know not whether I shall be able to make you any very satisfactory answers to these queries: I will however endeavor to give you all the information I am possessed of.

A physician from Scotland, who, as I have heard, was a disciple of the celebrated Pitcairn, and who was an intimate acquaintance of some of the first practitioners in Boston, and its neighborhood, about 60 or 70 years ago, was much in the habit of administering mercurials, and, as I have heard, much promoted their use among us, if he did not originate it.

This practice was much promoted, too, by the writings of Dr. Cheyne, then, and for some time after, much read by physicians here.

But what probably most contributed to give the faculty a high idea of this medicine, and to bring it acquainted with its virtues and uses, was the happy effect it was found to have, in checking the progress of a most formidable disease, which broke out in this part of America about the year 1734 or 1735, and made cruel havoc, sweeping off multitudes of children, wherever its baleful influence extended: I mean the disease at that time called *the throat distemper;* which I suppose to have been of the same genus with Dr. Huxham's *malignant ulcerous sore throat*, though it was, I believe, much more frequently and rapidly fatal then, than it has appeared of late years among us, or than it has been at any time in Europe. No remedies, we are told, were for some time of any avail, to stop its career, and almost all who sickened, died. At length recourse was had to mercurials, as *turpethum minerale and calomel*, and by these, aided by antiseptics, &c. physicians were enabled to make some successful opposition to its ravages.*

* I remember to have heard a little anecdote, which may be worth relating on this occasion. A practitioner in a neighboring town, of great repute and extensive practice, being called to attend a young woman dangerously ill of this distemper; having ordered her, among other things, 4 or 5 grs. of calomel, was astonished the next day to find her relieved, greatly beyond his expectations. Upon inquiring of his pupil, to whom he had given his directions, whether his prescription had been followed; he

It was natural to extend the use of so efficacious a remedy to other disorders, and being found or thought useful in many other cases, it became accordingly much employed.

But at what period, or by whomsoever the mercurial practice might have been introduced, in this part of the country, this is certain, that upwards of 45 years ago, it was in common use, in pleurisies, quinsies, inflammatory rheumatisms, and other phlegmasiæ, with several gentlemen who were at that time of the first repute as physicians. And this practice was not only adopted by their pupils, but by many other practitioners in the vicinity, and has not, since that time, been wholly laid aside, though I believe it has not been so much in vogue lately, as it was from 30 to 45 years ago. The modern European medical writers, who are most consulted and followed, by the faculty here, being totally silent with respect to the exhibition of mercury in fever and inflammatory diathesis, has, I doubt not, been the occasion of its running into disuse of late. The practice has, however, been still kept up by many, and will doubtless go on increasing, now European writers give it their sanction.

An idea that mercurials were improper, if not injurious medicines, in inflammatory cases in general, seems to have been adopted by physicians in Europe;* but certainly without just foundation, if the above account deserves credit; or if we may believe several European performances lately published; particularly a paper written by Dr. Wright, and inserted in the 7th volume of *Medical Facts*, entitled, *Practical Observations on the Treatment of Acute Diseases, &c.* The encomiums Dr. Wright bestows upon the administration of mercury, in a variety

found that his patient had taken 30 grs. of calomel, instead of 4 or 5, to which mistake he attributed the cure. From this time forward in very dangerous cases, he used the medicine in much larger doses than before.

* I well remember, that, about the year 175–, Dr. Charles Russel, a young physician, (who had been pupil to a gentleman who employed mercurials in his practice very freely,) then lately returned from London, where he had been some time attending at a public Hospital, (Guy's or St. Thomas',) informed me, that upon his relating to the medical gentlemen there, the common practice in this part of America, of administering mercurials, particularly calomel, in inflammatory disorders, that they expressed great surprise at the account, and told him they should have apprehended the most fatal consequences from such a practice.

of acute cases, so well accords with our long experience of its efficacy and safety, in this country, that every practitioner amongst us, who has been in the use of it, will readily accede to them.

For my own part, I profess myself to have been in the habit of prescribing this mineral ever since the year 1751 or 1752. About that time, pleurisies and peripneumonies were remarkably prevalent, and might be called epidemical; the practitioners of this place made free use of it at that time, and, as we found its effects beneficial, have continued to employ it in similar cases ever since.

It is not pretended, however, that this practice is universally successful, or that it is admissible in all subjects: some persons, as experience shows, cannot bear mercury; a great degree of debility, and irritability, being the immediate consequence of its exhibition, even when given in very moderate doses. Others, from great tenderness and irritability of bowels, seem incapable of admitting a quantity of the medicine sufficient to affect the system. And others, from a certain peculiarity of constitution, though the bowels bear it well, are but little apt to be affected by it, although it be taken freely, and for a considerable length of time. But so far as my recollection serves me, I have never known a failure in pneumonia, where the patient began to take it early, could bear it well, the mouth became sore, and a gentle ptyalism came on in a few days.

The preparation of mercury most commonly made use of was mercurius dulcis, or calomel; in larger doses joined with some purgative, when designed to act as a cathartic; and in smaller doses, of one or two grains, as an alterant, or when the intention was to affect the system, and then it was frequently combined with *camphor*, and sometimes with some preparation of *antimony*, and sometimes with small doses of *opium;* or with all of them together, as the prescriber judged most proper; though, in some cases, the native mercury, rubbed down with terebinth, &c. was preferred.

Besides these, the *turpethum minerale* was often given in a few grains, (from 1 to 4,) with a little *ipecac*, as an emetic; than

which the *Materia Medica* does not, perhaps, afford one more certain or more efficacious; especially in inflammatory quinsies, the croup, or generally when tenacious phlegm or pituit abounds in the stomach. Small doses, too, of this last preparation, as one third, or half a grain, given in a little Cons. Rosar. or honey, and repeated at short intervals, as two or three hours, have been found to be most powerfully expectorant, in pneumony, where the lungs have been greatly obstructed and loaded with viscid phlegm; and I have seen a number of instances, where patients who seemed on the point of suffocation, were snatched from the jaws of death, by a few doses of this medicine.

My intention in this letter, however, you are sensible, is not to enter into the mode of exhibiting mercurials, much less to treat of any particular disease; my design is merely to answer your queries; to corroborate Dr. Wright's practice, by showing how it corresponds with a practice that has long been common among us here; and to show, that, in this part of the country at least, the same medicine has been successfully employed, certainly for nearly half a century, and probably much longer.

I am, &c.

E. A. HOLYOKE.

*Salem, December*, 1797.

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## F.

### ACETAS PLUMBI IN HÆMORRHAGE.

The following is from a MS. called Hints, Facts, and Observations.

In Menorrhagia, when other medicines, such as Tr. Kino, Terra Japonica, Pulvis Styptic. Alum Whey, &c. have failed, I have had recourse to the Sacchar. Saturni, with the most beneficial effects; and in about 7 or 8 cases, in which I have administered it, it has never once failed in checking the complaint.

The mode of administering it which I have adopted is this:

℞ Pulv. Sacch. Saturn: gr. iv.
Pil. Anodyn, (nost.) gr. v. m. ft. Pil. No. v.
Cap. æger, No. 1, 4ta quâq. horâ.

The same medicine, administered in the same dose and after the same intervals, we have found to succeed immediately in Hæmaturia, after the unsuccessful trial of the most approved remedies: before 4 pills were taken, the Hæmorrhage abated, and by the time 10 were taken it was entirely suppressed, and the patient reinstated. In another instance, 5 of the above pills were found to check the disease immediately.

I was induced to make trial of this remedy by reading in the Edinburgh Medical Commentary, vol. xii. p. 190, a letter from Dr. Reynolds to Sir George Baker, on the successful use of lead in Hæmorrhages.

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## G.

### BALSAM OF FENNEL.

Take equal parts of Cream Tartar, (or which will answer as well of White Tartar, if it be very good,) and common Nitre, let them be reduced in a mortar to a fine powder and thoroughly mixed together; put them into a flat iron vessel and place it in a chimney, set it on fire by putting into it a small live coal or a red hot iron, when the deflagration is finished and the cake of salt is cool enough to handle, take it out and with a knife scrape off all the black part, and powder it in a mortar; it will be found reduced in weight one full half. Put the powdered salt into a glass vessel capable of containing three times its quantity, add pure water to it by an ounce or two at a time, stirring it after every addition of water very briskly with an iron or strong wooden spatula, and adding gradually about ʒ iss or ʒ ij of the chemical Oil of Fennel to each pound weight of the salt. This stirring or violent agitation of the mixture, ought to be frequently

repeated for a day or two, after a sufficient quantity of water has been added, which will be when a quantity nearly equal to the salt is added.

This Balsam, as it is very improperly called, is a very useful remedy where an alkaline medicine is wanted, particularly for infants, or in those cases in which acidity is predominant in the stomach, and is diaphoretic and diaretic.

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## H.

### SAL ÆRATUS.

The discovery of the mode of preparing this very elegant and valuable form of the vegetable alkali, was the result of accident. Dr. Holyoke discovered that a quantity of pearlashes which he purchased, had an unusual appearance, and did not deliquesce in the air. On inquiry, he found the cask containing the article in question, had stood in a distil-house, near the cistern, for more than a year. The effect was soon traced to the fixed air of the cisterns, and thus his mode of preparing the Sal Æratus was brought to its present perfection. This account was substantially inserted in the ii. vol. New York Repository, in 1798.

*To the Massachusetts Medical Society.*

As alkaline medicines are frequently called for, and in many cases the exhibition of them in pretty large doses, and those often repeated, are judged necessary in some diseases of importance, I would beg leave to lay before the Society a few observations on the Sal Æratus.

This salt consists of an alkaline basis, such as Salt of Tartar, Pearlashes, or any pure fixed vegetable alkali, fully saturated with the acid of *fixed air;* an easy and cheap method of preparing it is this :—Dissolve any quantity of pure fixed vegetable alkali, whether mild or caustic, in fair water, in such a proportion as that the water may be nearly saturated with the salt; let this solution be filtered, and put into a wide mouthed vessel of

glass or stone ware, let this vessel be covered in such a manner as not to exclude the liquor from a pretty free communication with the air, and yet so as to secure it from dust or other impurities; the vessel thus filled and prepared, should be slung with strings of a convenient length, and hung suspended in a distiller's vat or cistern, over the fermenting liquor, or which may be more convenient, in an empty cistern, which has been frequently employed to ferment in, and which still contains the fixed air, as they all do for a long time after being used, unless purposely cleansed. In this situation it should continue for a month or more, in which time, if the jar be examined, it will be found to contain a considerable quantity of salt, from which the liquor must be poured off, and when the salts are drained, on some bibulous paper and dried, they are fit for use. The same liquor may be again saturated with new alkali, and the same process repeated if thought proper.

But there is another mode of preparing this salt, which will answer as well, perhaps, for any medical purpose, which is not attended with so much trouble: take a wooden box made of a wide hoop, such as with us is commonly called a sugar box, let its side, as high up as its cover will permit, be bored with four or five holes of about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch diameter, and at nearly equal distance; put into this box as much dry alkaline salt as will fill it nearly up to the holes bored in its sides; let this box be covered with its lid, and slung by strings, and suspended in a distiller's cistern, as in the last case; and the fixed air which has free access to it by the holes in the side of the box, will in a few weeks so impregnate the alkali, as to produce a perfect Sal Æratus. But in order to accelerate the process, the box should once in a week or two be taken out and the salt stirred about with the hand or a stick, so as to expose a new surface to the impregnating air. I have prepared this salt in both these ways, and think the first most perfect, the last much easier and expeditious.

The salts prepared in the first of these ways, shoot into beautiful crystals, which seem to be oblique angled parallelopipeds; which detonate in the fire with the crackling noise of sea salt; does not deliquesce or effloresce in the air; has a mild alkaline or subalkaline taste; is capable of dissolving in water; (water

dissolves about one fourth its weight, in a heat of 45° of Farenheit's thermometer;) and is decompounded by the addition of any, even the mildest kind of acid; indeed without the addition of any acid, merely by dissolution in boiling water, for hot water has very little affinity with fixed air, although cold water may be impregnated with an equal bulk of it.

When this salt is prepared in the second method, there is no appearance of crystals, but is, as far as I can judge, as well saturated with the acid of the air as that prepared by the first process. Now a salt combined of two such useful principles as vegetable alkali and fixed air; so little disagreeable to the palate, and so easily decompounded in the first passage, must, I think, be a very useful medicine. As an antacid it perhaps exceeds any thing in the Materia Medica. In acidities of the stomach, I have often exhibited it with great advantage; either simply dissolved in water, or in infusions of Rhubarb, or of Lign. Quass. or in mixtures with absorbents and some simple or cordial waters; or in powders with Rhubarb or Columbo: and in the antiemetic effervescing mixture of Riverius, it by far exceeds the common alkali, as being much more palatable, and more effectual, as it contains so much more fixed air, (in which the virtues of this mixture is supposed principally to reside,) than the common alkali. When given with this last intention, I dissolve 3ij of the Sal Æratus in vi. spoonfuls of water, one spoonful of which is to be poured into as much lemon juice, for a dose, which the patient must hold in his hand near his mouth, and instantly, even whilst they are mixing, throw it down;—it is never complained of as a disagreeable draught. Perhaps it might be better to take down first a spoonful of the acid, and then swallow the solution of the salt immediately upon it, as it may very easily be done; but I have never tried it in this way.

And as fixed air is so powerful an antiseptic, we may, I think, very naturally suppose this salt might be advantageously exhibited in putrid cases, in the form of the effervescing mixture, as in dysenteries, putrid ulcerated throats, &c., and in many cases make a most useful addition to the bark.

But there is another disease, of the first magnitude, in which this remedy is highly recommended by the late celebrated

Cullen, in the 13th chapter of the 2d volume of the last edition of his Materia Medica. I mean in calculus of the bladder; in these cases he advises it to be given liberally, and its use continued for a long time, which he says relieves the disease more certainly and more completely than any other remedy. As I do not find this medicine so much known or employed as I think it deserves, I have taken the liberty to trouble you with this paper, which I hope may conduce to bring it into more general use.

Note. It should never be exhibited in a vehicle made hot by the fire, as the heat almost immediately discharges part of the fixed air, and decompounds it. It may not be amiss to mention, though it be foreign to the views of this Society, an economical use to which this salt may be applied in preference to pearlashes, and that is, as a leaven to produce fermentation in dough; for this purpose a small quantity of this salt has a much greater effect than the pearlashes. It is frequently useful in the heartburn; and that sickness, and acidity of stomach, which breeding women so much complain of. About ʒss of it should be dissolved in a pint of an infusion of Quassia, and taken in the dose of two large spoonfuls, four times a day.

Beside the diseases mentioned above, to which this medicine is applicable, several others will readily suggest themselves to the physician, who is acquainted with its usefulness, and seem to recommend it to a place in every apothecary's shop.

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## I

### ACCOUNT OF THE SMALL POX HOSPITAL, ERECTED AT SALEM, 1773.

The latter part of the year 1773 was a very sickly season in Salem. In the latter part of summer and autumn, cholera, dysentery, and fever were very rife. Dr. Holyoke's incessant fatigue brought on a fever, which confined him to his house from September 16th till October 4th, and left him unable to resume his business till the last of October, when the small pox broke

out, and was of so fatal a nature, that 16 persons died of the first 28 who were attacked with it. At a town meeting, November 1, permission was given to sundry inhabitants who had subscribed one thousand pounds to defray the expense, to erect a hospital for the purpose of innoculation. By the great diligence and assiduity of the Committee, the cellar of the principal building, 2 stories high, 20 feet wide and 140 feet long, was dug, the foundation laid, the frame raised, and partly boarded before dark on Saturday, although the work had not been begun nor the materials even purchased on the Wednesday before. This Hospital was placed in a plat of ground in the south east part of the great pasture, containing 12 acres, surrounded by a good stone wall, and consisted of two houses, the largest containing 12 rooms, each 20 feet square, and the smaller, 4 such rooms. So vigorously was the measure prosecuted, that although all the materials except rocks were carted two and a half miles, the whole was completed in 30 working days, commencing on the 3d of November; and on the 9th of December following 132 patients were admitted and innoculated. Our late townsman, the venerable Timothy Pickering, was at that time one of the selectmen of the town, and was intrusted with a considerable share in the undertaking. It is well known that when he was concerned in an enterprize that regarded the welfare and happiness of his fellow citizens, sloth, inactivity, and unnecessary delay never retarded its completion. The first innoculator in this hospital was a Dr. Latham, who innoculated upon the secret plan called, from its inventors in England, the Suttonian, and the Salem papers of that day are filled with an interesting controversy which arose concerning this man and his practice, in which controversy, Rev. Dr. Whittaker, Mr. Occum an Indian preacher, Col. Pickering, and Mr. Dunbar the clergyman of the first church, were conspicuous names.

## K.

### LIST OF BIRTHS.

The following is a list of births, occurring in ten years of his practice, from 1790 to 1801, and is a memorandum of some interest to medical men.

| *Years.* | *Boys.* | *Girls.* | *Total.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1791 | 35 | 49 | 84 |
| 1792 | 53 | 34 | 87 |
| 1793 | 52 | 38 | 90 |
| 1794 | 45 | 51 | 96 |
| 1795 | 59 | 48 | 107 |
| 1796 | 47 | 53 | 100 |
| 1797 | 54 | 43 | 97 |
| 1798 | 53 | 47 | 100 |
| 1799 | 48 | 54 | 102 |
| 1801 | 46 | 35 | 81 |
| | 494 | 452 | 946 |

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## L.

### LIST OF PUPILS.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Isaac Atherton, | came | 1762, | remained | 3 years. |
| Joseph Orne, | " | 1765, | " | 5 " |
| David Jewett, | " | 1766, | " | 3 " |
| William Paine, | " | 1768, | " | 4 " |
| William Clarke, | " | 1772, | staid few months. | |
| Edward R. Turner | " | 1772, | rem. | 3 years. |
| William Goodhue, | " | 1772, | " | 3 " |
| Nath'l W. Appleton, | " | 1774, | " | 3 " |
| Francis Borland, | " | 1774, | " | 1 " |
| Edward Barnard, | " | 1774, | " | 3 " |
| Daniel Kilham, | " | 1778, | " | 1 " |
| B. Lynde Oliver, | " | 1778, | " | 3 " |
| Isaac Osgood, | " | 177–, | " | 3 " |
| Nathaniel Parker, | " | 1779, | " | 3 " |
| Thomas Farley, | " | 1782, | " | 4 " |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Abiel Pearson, | came | 1782, | rem. | 3 | years. |
| James Griffin, | " | 1786, | " | 2 | " |
| Ebenezer Learned, | " | 1788, | " | 3 | " |
| Nathan Read, | " | 178–, | " | 1 | " |
| *William Harris, | " | 1788, | " | 1 | " |
| J. D. Treadwell, | " | 1788, | " | 3 | " |
| †Edw'd Wigglesworth, | " | 1790, | " | 1 | " |
| Nathaniel Lee, | " | 1791, | " | 2 | " |
| Thomas Pickman, | " | 1791, | " | 3 | " |
| John Preston, | " | 1791, | " | 3 | " |
| James Cook, | " | 1795, | " | 3 | " |
| James Jackson, | " | 1797, | " | 2 | " |
| Nath'l Bradstreet, | " | 1798. | | | |
| Samuel Gerrish, | " | 179–. | | | |
| Mathew Spalding, | " | 1800. | | | |
| Samuel Hemenway, | " | 1801. | | | |
| Samuel Trevett, | " | 1804, | " | 2 | " |
| ——— Flagg, | " | 1804. | | | |
| John B. Brown, | " | 1808, | " | 1 | " |
| Edward A. Holyoke, | " | 1817, | " | 1 | " |

Total number, 35—13 are now living.

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## M.

### LETTER OF DR. HOLYOKE.

The following are extracts from a letter to his wife, dated at a period which gives a thrilling interest even to the domestic record of the great events, which were taking place.

*Salem, Friday afternoon, June 16th,* 1775.

. . . . As to the Military Operations here I am not in the secret, so can give you no news of that sort, though the general Voice is that there will soon be an Engagement, and perhaps it may happen before this reaches you. 'Tis said our People intend to take Possession of Dorchester Hill, to-night, and

* Afterwards an Episcopal clergyman in New York.

† Died before he finished his studies.

whenever they do, it is also said they will be attacked by the regulars. I pray God to prevent Bloodshed, but I fear there will be a good deal. . . . . .

*Sunday, P. M.* . . . . I am heartily glad you are not here, just at this Time; you would, I know, be most terribly alarmed. We had an appearance yesterday of a most prodigious smoke, which I found was exactly in the direction of Charlestown, and as we knew our Men were entrenching on Bunker's Hill there, we supposed the Town was on Fire, and so in fact it proved. For in the evening (that is last evening) we were told the Regulars had landed at Charlestown under cover of the Smoke from the buildings they had set fire to, and had forced the Entrenchments on the Hill. . . . . Among the missing is Dr. Warren, who it is said commanded a regiment. Col. Bridge of Billerica, is said to be among the slain, and Col. Gardner of Cambridge had one of his thighs shot off. The commotion was so considerable, though none of our men went to the Battle, (as the Northwest part of the Province and not the Seacoast was called out upon the occasion,) that we had but one Meeting House open in the morning. And this afternoon, while some were at Meeting and others talking over the action of yesterday, we were alarmed with an appearance of Smoke at Marblehead, which broke up the meetings, and the People with their Engines and Buckets went over to extinguish the Fire, and I among the rest, though I should have been glad to have been excused, on account of the prodigious heat of the weather, but as I thought that under Providence I owed the preservation of my House to the assistance from Marblehead, when we were in the utmost hazard, I could not dispense with going; but we were stopped when about half way there with an Account that the Smoke arose from a field of Grass on Fire, and that no building was hurt, so I returned home and am now set down to cool myself and give you this account. . . . . Dr. Warren is since known to be killed. . . . . .

*Tuesday Noon, June 20th*, 1775. The Destruction of Charlestown by Fire, (for it is all burnt down,) has struck our People at Salem with such a panic, that those who before thought the

Town perfectly safe, are now all for removing off; but I cannot be apprehensive of any Danger we are peculiarly in. 'Tis certain the Aim of the Regulars is to get Cambridge, to defeat our Army, and to destroy our Magazines there,—and as Charlestown lay in their way, and by setting Fire to it they were able to land their Men under cover of the Smoke which blew directly upon the Hill, where we were entrenched, they burnt it and succeeded by that very stratagem, for our Men did not discover them till they were within Gun shot of them. . . . . .

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## N.

### RECANTATION OF TORYISM.

*Salem, May 30th*, 1775.

Whereas we the subscribers, did, some time since, sign an address to Gov. Hutchinson, which though prompted to by the best intentions, has nevertheless given great offence to our country; We do now declare, that we were so far from designing by that action to show our acquiescence in those acts of parliament so universally and justly odious to all America, that on the contrary we hoped we might in that way contribute to their repeal, though now to our sorrow we find ourselves mistaken.—And we now further declare, that we never intended the offence which this address has occasioned, and that if we had foreseen such an event, we should never have signed it; as it always has been and now is our wish to live in harmony with our neighbors, and our serious determination to promote to the utmost of our power, the liberty, the welfare and happiness of our country, which is inseparably connected with our own.

*Signed by* 12 *persons.*

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## O.

### RECOLLECTIONS AND MEMORANDUMS OF PAST EVENTS.

The first thing that I entirely remember was the funeral of Aunt Oulton, which was on July 18, 1732.

The first Aurora Borealis I ever saw, the Northern or rather

Northeastern Sky appeared suffused by a dark blood-red coloured vapour, without any variety of different coloured rays. I have never since seen the like. This was about the year 1734. Northern Lights were then a novelty, and excited great wonder and terror among the vulgar.

In 1737, Square Toed Shoes were going out of fashion; I believe few or none were worn after 1737. Buckles instead of Shoe Strings began to be used about the same time, but were not universal in the country towns till 1740 or 1742. Very broad brim'd Hats were worn as early as I remember. My father had a beaver whose Brims were at least 7 inches; which when he left off, I remember I used to wear in the Garden, or in a shower, by way of Umbrella. They were all cock'd triangularly. And pulling them off by way of salutation was invariably the Fashion by all who had any Breeding.

Boots were never worn except on horseback, or snowy or rainy weather. They frequently had large broad Tops that reach'd full half way up the Thigh. But Boots did not come into general use till the close of the revolutionary war.

Funerals were extravagantly expensive. Gold Rings to each of the Bearers, the Minister, the Physician, &c. were frequently given, when the family could but ill afford it. White gloves in abundance, burnt wine to the company, &c. &c. This extravagance occasioned the enacting sumptuary laws, which though they check'd did not entirely suppress the complaints till the commencement of the revolutionary war.

In 1749, it was reported the train band list of the town of Marblehead, was equal to that of the town of Salem. The difference is now very great. I suppose Salem has at least twice the number of Marblehead.

[1749.]* The Houses (in Salem) were generally very ordinary. The first handsome house was built by Mr. Jno. Turner, then Col. Pickman, then Mr. J. Cabot, &c.

There was but one ropewalk, and that was on the neck, inside the gate. But one tavern of any note, and that was an old house at the corner now occupied by Stearns' brick store. The

* These remarks refer to the period of Dr. Holyoke's residence in Salem, preceding the revolution.

Houses for publick worship were only the old (first) church—the eastern parish—the secession from the first church—the Friends' meeting house, and the Episcopal church.

The number of Inhabitants was estimated at between 5 and 6000.

The Commerce of this town was chiefly with Spain and Portugal and the West Indies, especially with St. Eustatia. The Cod fishery was carried on with success and advantage. The Schooners were employed on the fishing banks in the summer, and in the autumn were laden with Fish, Rum, Molasses, and the produce of the country, and sent to Virginia and Maryland, and there spent the winter retailing their cargoes, and in return brought Corn and Wheat and Tobacco. This Virginia voyage was seldom very profitable, but as it served to keep the crews together, it was continued till more advantageous employment offered.

There were a few Chaises kept by gentlemen for their own use, but it was no easy matter to hire one to go a journey.

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## P.

### POETICAL SCRAPS.

The following poetical scraps are introduced merely as matters of curiosity, and without the most distant idea of claiming for Dr. Holyoke the meed of poetical excellence. They serve to show what common observation will verify, that most men at some period or other of their life seek an utterance for the vividness of their thoughts in the flow of measured numbers. The first piece is a production of an early period of his life, and occasioned by the mildness and beauty of the season. The second short "fragment" bears the date of 1823, when the author was 95 years old, and is a playful protest against the innovations of modern customs.

WINTER—1753.

Hail hoary Time! whose swift returning course
Instead of blust'ring, brings us moderate Days;
Whose Air resembles more the vernal Breeze

When from serener skies and purer Air
The gen'rous Zephyr drives the chilling blast,
And poisonous Foggs and Vapors all disperse.
The vital Fluid by our Lungs inhal'd
Revives the sluggish Blood with active Spring,
And swifter drives the purple Current round,
Replete with Life, with vigorous Health endow'd.
Hail charming Year! whose happy Seasons bring
Hygeia beauteous! Goddess heav'nly born!
The Solace of Mankind! without which none
Has ever yet been blest. The proudest King
Upon his gorgeous Throne, tho' suppliant Crowds
Wait at his Footstool and his Beck attend,
Yet if, averse, thou should'st forsake his Court
And he with Sickness or with Pain distrest,
Unmindful of the Blessings Heav'n bestows,
Forgets his Grandeur and his royal Pomp,
His Crown, his Sceptre gladly would exchange
For Health or Ease; And thinks his meanest slave
Supremely blest, if on his ruddy cheek
Happy he views the Salutiferous Blush,
And easy Smiles pronounce him free from Pain.
But when Celestial Maid! thou deign'st to dwell
As oft thou dost, with Mortals doom'd to Toil
To Penury and Want, when there thou smil'st,
They willingly pursue their destin'd Task,
With cold and hunger combat, still with mirth
The jocund Year goes round, and Song or Dance
Forget not, but with Sports and Pastimes crown
Their Labor, and each vacant hour employ.

A FRAGMENT.

. . . . . and smoak'd segars!
Vile substitute for that white, slender tube
Our fathers erst enjoy'd, in Winter's Eve,
When the facetious jest, or funny pun,
Or tales of olden time, or Salem Witch,
Or quaint conundrum round the genial fire
The social hour beguil'd.

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